



Urban Children and Youth in MENA Region

Addressing Priorities in Education

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National Council for Childhood and Motherhood

NCCM

Dubai

May 2005



National Focus on Vulnerable Children and Youth

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Vulnerable children

- Street children
- Working children
- Disabled children
- Drug Abused
- Out of school children
- Victims of FGM practice
- Adolescents with negative behaviors

Violence and Gender are cross cutting issues



Challenges on the Overall Development Agenda

- Priority to prevention
- Baseline data for vulnerable children
- More community support
- Advocating for “Child at Risk” Hotline
- Integrate youth in policy development
- Enforcement of child related legislation mechanism
- Mobilizing donor support
- Bottom-up approach
- Sustainability
- Cultural barriers





Steps to Overcome Challenges

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- Coordinating & enhancement of dialogue with concerned ministries and stakeholders

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- Awareness raising campaigns against all kinds of risky behavior

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- Sensitize media specialists

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- Disseminate children's rights culture

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- Encourage local communities' participation in developing and monitoring management mechanisms

- Capacity building of stakeholders

- Poverty alleviation through income generation programs



Value Added to Overall Development Agenda

- Allocation of funds (L.E. 157 million) for Girls Education Initiative in Egypt Five Year National Plan
- Narrowing gender gap in basic education figures
- Development of baseline data in the area of child labor
- Finalizing National Strategies dealing with vulnerable children
- Mainstreaming Child Rights at policy and grass-roots levels
- Catalyzation of resources from Donors community
- Issuance of child friendly laws





Value Added to Overall Development Agenda (Cont.)

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- Expanding geographic scope of two successful initiatives: Girl's Education Initiative and FGM Free Village Model

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- Broke the silence on FGM through advocacy
 - 120 villages announce
 - Euro Med Child Award

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- Providing high quality reproductive health & family planning services

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- Expanding the adolescence health programme

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Progress Towards Mainstreaming Children and Youth Programs



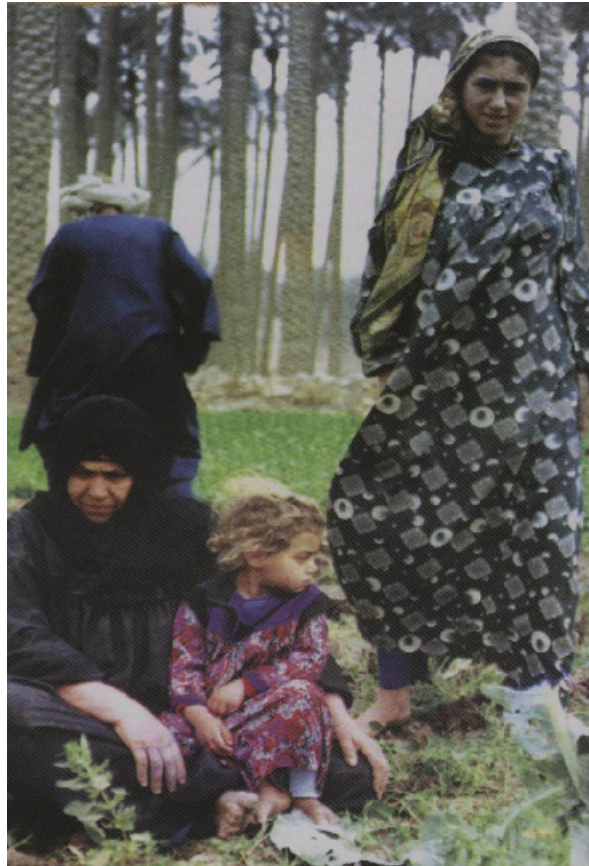
- Revisiting the child law, in coordination with concerned ministries for protection of the rights of vulnerable children
- Implementing a project on “Protection of child labor” in some governorates
- Initiating “Children at Risk” programme
- Preparation to launch the hotline for children at risk in coordination with stakeholders
- Managing the regional consultation on the UN Secretary General’s study on “Violence against Children” in the Middle East and North Africa
- Organization of the Arab Regional Conference on the Protection of Youth from Drugs



National Plan for Girl's Education

A key strategy for human development

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“Girls’ education is our solution for a modern Egypt to achieve the development we call for, and to ensure the participation of half the population to face challenges”

Suzanne Mubarak



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Gender gap

		Primary Enrolment rate	Preparatory Enrolment rate	Secondary Enrolment rate
2000/2001	Boys	106,22	98,08	106,22
	Girls	100,26	93,10	60,38
	Gap	5,96	5,98	45,84
	Total	103,24		83,30
2003/2004	Boys	97,90	96,00	77,90
	Girls	94,90	93,80	76,40
	Gap	3,00	2,20	1,50
	Total	96,40	94,90	77,15

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Goals in conformity with MDGs

- Decrease the gender gap in basic education enrolment rates by 2007
- Enhance gender equality and quality education for all by 2015



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What have we done so far?

Policy level

- Integrating policy making and planning
- Gender sensitization of education policies
- Integrating media messages
- Enforcing quality standards



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What have we done so far?

At Grass Root level

- Bottom-up and integrated planning
- Raising public awareness of girls' education
- Empowering community structures
- Completion and refinement of databases
- Partnership and networking
- Private sector involvement
- Encouraging "Organized Volunteerism"
- Training and empowering of 862 facilitators
- Establishing 431 Girl-Friendly Schools comprising over 10,000 girls and boys



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What is still on GEI Agenda?

- 350 more Girl-Friendly schools
- 1000 more children to be enrolled
- Complete database at national and sub-national level
- Media sensitization
- Pilot income generating activities
- More community participation
- Reduction of gender gap in primary education





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