



The State of Palestine

**Ministry of  
Social  
Development**

# **The Strategic Plan to Protect Children from Online Violence**

## **Especially Sexual Exploitation & Abuse**

**Ministry of Social Development**

**In cooperation with**

**The Palestinian Center for Democracy & Conflict Resolution (PCDCR)**

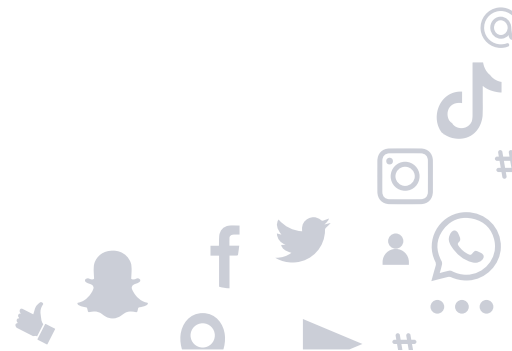
**2021 - 2025**

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**2021-2025**



# Minister's Forward

On the basis of the State of Palestine obligations relating to prevention of violence against children and response to all due process requirements, Palestine has developed its national legislation, has acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and has developed strategic plans based on the child rights approach with the participation of institutions concerned. Due to the fact that the real investment in Palestine starts with the children for our future existence and survival on Earth.

The Child Protection Counselors follow up with children being abused and exploited in all forms through preventive and remedial interventions for all cases under threat to their safety, physical and psychological health. Children's protection from online violence requires from the institutions concerned a comprehensive understanding of the risks, threats, and harm faced by children in the digital environment. It also requires clear standards and procedures for prevention and response, including all programs and best practices based on national laws and legislation, international treaties and conventions, and sustainable development goals. These standards and procedures ensure the comprehensive treatment for threats and risks, by focusing on the role of the family- as the first educational institution, the role of the school in implementing awareness programs for children and their parents, and the role of society in active participation in the reduction of violence and exploitation against children.

To achieve the objectives of the strategy on children's protection from online violence and exploitation, the Ministry: will support close collaboration with all government institutions, CBOs, and international organizations, will monitor the implementation, follow-up, and evaluation, and will organize the work among all actors based on partnership and collaboration to serve our children. We call upon all to work collectively in high-level collaboration in implementing preventive and remedial programs on violence and exploitation issues. In addition, the Child Protection Networks with the Child Protection Counselors and professionals working with children will work to ensure a safe, friendly, and responsive environment for the needs of children facing a risk of abuse and exploitation in all its forms.

**Ahmad Majdalani**  
Minister of Social Development

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# Abbreviations

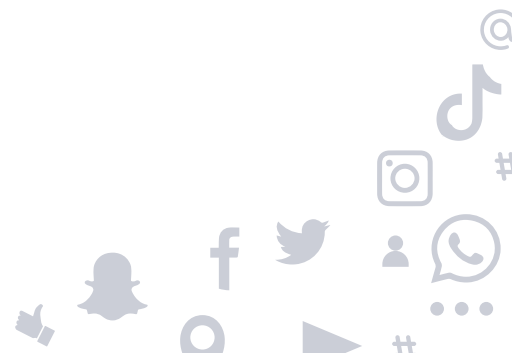
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<b>CBOs :</b>	Community-based organizations
<b>CPN :</b>	Child Protection Network
<b>HJC :</b>	High Judicial Council
<b>MoE :</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>MoH :</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoJ :</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MoSD :</b>	Ministry of Social Development
<b>MoTIT :</b>	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology
<b>PP :</b>	Public Prosecution
<b>SEA :</b>	Sexual exploitation and abuse
<b>UNRWA :</b>	The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

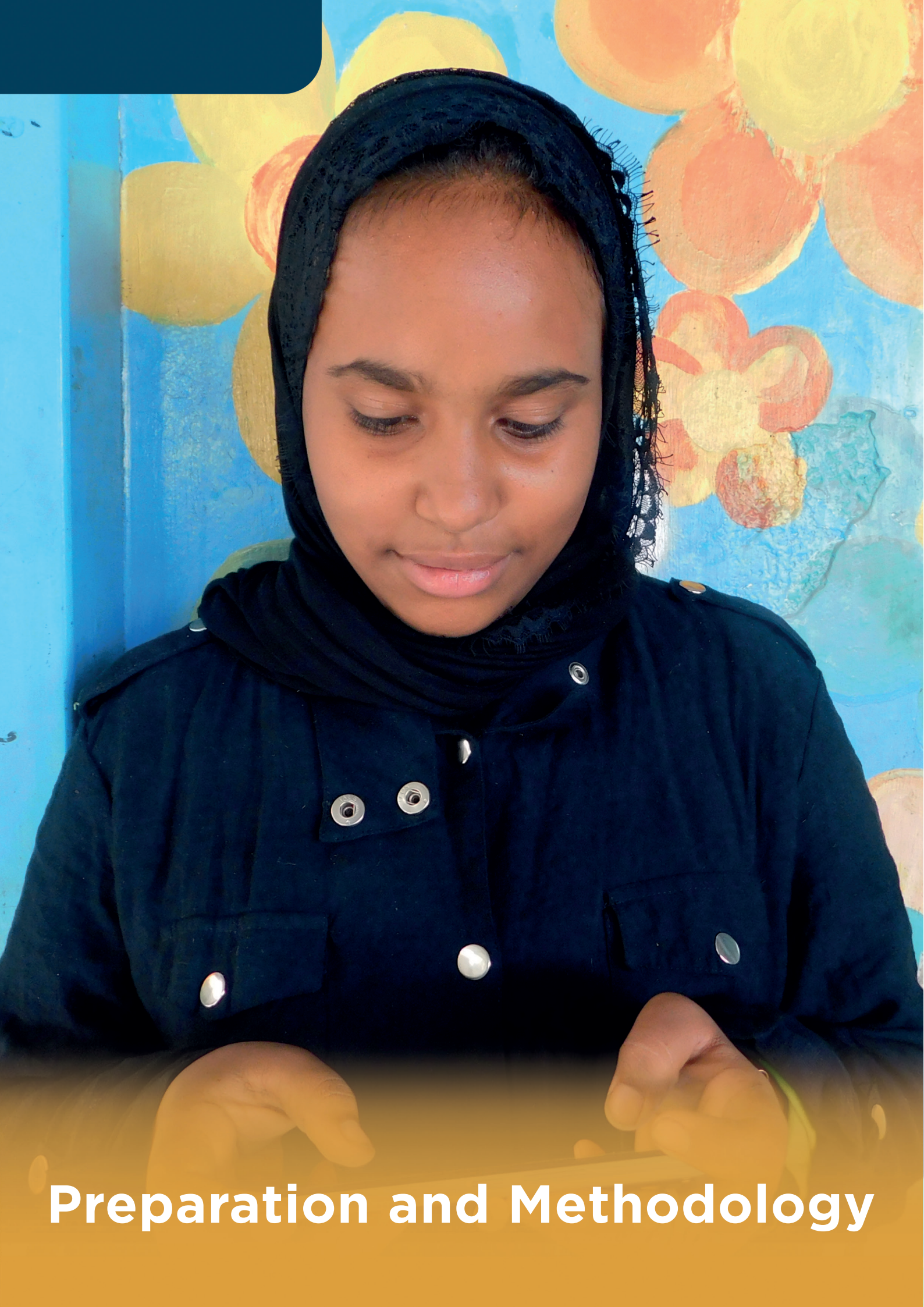


# Official Institutions and NGOs Involved in the Preparation of the Strategic Plan:

- **The Ministry of Social Development** has the primary responsibility for childhood sector in Palestine.
- **The Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution** as the primary partner in the initiative, planning, and follow-up.
- **The governmental institutions:** Public Prosecution, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, The Police, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, and High Judicial Council.
- **International institutions:** Save the Children International, War Child Holland, World Vision, and The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
- **NGOs:** Defense for Children International, Palestinian Child Institute/ An-Najah National University, Palestinian Counselling Center, The Guidance and Training Center for the Child and Family, Taawon, Sawa Organization, Tamer Institute for Community Education, Action Aid.
- **Societies and Clubs:** An-Naqura Chraitable Societies, Programs Center/ Al-Far'a Camp, Programs Center/ Jenin Camp, Kfr Jammal Charitable Society, Return Center, Qalqilya Sports Club, Nahdat Bent Rif Society, Jericho Women's Society, and Roboo' Al-Quds Society.
- **Palestine Children Council/ Defense for Children International**







# Preparation and Methodology



# Terminology

## Protection

This term encompasses the measures, philosophies, policies, standards, and guidance aimed at child prevention and protection from intentional and unintentional harm. It also includes the adoption of the appropriate methodologies of immediate response to prevent and address risk.

## Violence

The intentional use of power or authority or threat of them against oneself or someone else or several people or the whole society, resulting in or likely to result in harm, or death, or disability, or psychological issue, or development disorder, or deprivation.

## Exploitation

The driving, or coercion, or inducement of a child to give actions and activities- whether they are sexual or economic actions and activities- that are inconsistent with his/her physical, mental, emotional, and moral development, exposing his/her safety, development, and survival to danger.

## Sexual Exploitation

Any sexual act in front of or against a child or an adolescent. The sexual exploitation of children and adolescents also refers to sexual coercion any act perpetrated because of exploitation of a child's/ adolescent's mental impairment, poor knowledge, physical weakness, and language impairment.

## Cyber Extortion

The act of threatening and intimidating a victim through the distribution of photos or videos or leak of confidential information with a demand for money or taking advantage of the victim to commit illegal actions.

## Sexual Abuse

It refers to the exploitation of a child in sexual activities where s/he barely comprehends them, developmentally unprepared for them, and unable to express his/her acceptance or refusal. Such activities are against laws and denied socially and culturally. The sexual abuse includes sexual activities by an adult or older child against another child under his/her responsibility, or trust, or authority. The abuser could be a member of the abused family, or an acquaintance, or a foreigner. This activity aims to gratify or satisfy the needs of the abuser.

## Protection & Care Partners

Government and non-government Caregivers and protection provides.

## Partners in the Formulation & Preparation of the Plan

Bodies and entities involved in the formulation and preparation of the strategic plan.

## Training Committee

The Committee is responsible for developing programs and training materials, coordinating, facilitating, and implementing trainings for the targeted groups of this plan.

## Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

The Committee is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the plan over five years (the timeline of this plan).

## Studies, Researches, and Database Development Committee

The Committee is responsible for coordinating the action in studies, researches, and developing the database, and facilitating its work in accordance with this plan.

# Vision and Principles

## Vision

“A conscious and supportive society for children, and a strong and sustainable institutional system that reflects the best practices in prevention and response to forms of online violence and exploitation and children’s protection in cooperation and complementary way among official and non-official bodies, based on the Palestinian legislation and the Convention on the Rights of the Child”

## Guiding Principles

The strategic plan to protect children from online violence especially sexual exploitation and abuse is based on a rights-based holistic approach at the national and international levels in accordance with the international instruments and the Palestinian laws and legislation. The purpose behind this approach is to achieve the good implementation of integrated systems that focus on the child rights, participation, prevention, and protection at all levels.

The preparation and development of the plan based on the rights-based holistic approach are guided by a common set of principles as follows:

- 1 Principle of Inclusivity:** The comprehensive obligation to respect human rights, children’s rights, and to prevent of abuse and exploitation of children.
- 2 Principle of Respect for the Legislation:** Adhering to legislation, domestic laws, and international conventions, as well as promoting best practices and strategies that maintain children's safety and development.
- 3 Principle of Participation:** Active involvement of all stakeholders, including organizations, individuals, and communities, as well as the genuine participation of children in all phases of the strategic plan.
- 4 Principle of Complementarity:** Collaboration between the various parties and those involved in child protection along with effective coordination between them in order to provide the best integrated high-quality services.

# Methodology for Preparing the Strategic Plan

- 1** Information Accessibility: All the information related to children exploitation was obtained from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and active institutions in the field of children.
- 2** Data Analysis: A scientific analysis of the available data and Palestinian context were conducted along with proposals for addressing the problem as the first step for the stakeholders to discuss and consider.
- 3** A core planning team of government institutions was formed, a workshop was conducted, a discussion was held on data and the mechanism of analysis, and preliminary proposals were made to address the issue.
- 4** The international organizations and CBOs were involved as support planning team. Their comments and amendments on the first draft were discussed.
- 5** Palestine Children Council was involved through Defense for Children International, where the objectives and interventions of the plan were discussed, and the children's recommendations were incorporated.
- 6** The second draft was revised through involving all the partner institutions where the core team received and discussed their responses.
- 7** The third draft was the final version to be adopted by the stakeholders.
- 8** The plan was adopted by the institutions and ratified by the Minister of Social Development.
- 9** The plan was disseminated via the websites of MoSD and the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution and was printed for dissemination to the stakeholders.





# The Palestinian Context

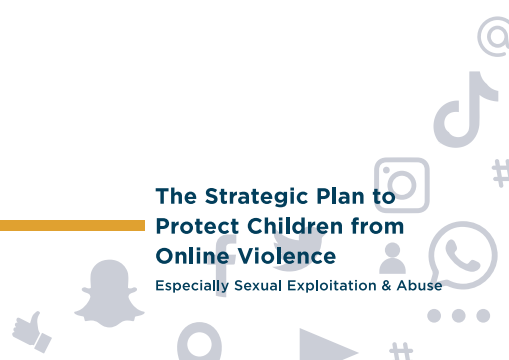
# The Palestinian Context

There has been a significant increase in the use of the internet in Palestine. Some experts attributed this development to the state of siege among Palestinian society, the need to obtain modes and means of domestic and international communication, and the need to overcome the occupation's geographical barriers, leading to an increased reliance on electronic communication. The COVID-19 pandemic witnessed an increase in the number of children using the cyberspace for the first time for school distance learning and social interaction. This was accompanied by a lack of parental supervision, leaving children vulnerable to inappropriate content, and abuse and exploitation by perpetrators who produce sexual abuse materials.

The social change in Palestine towards the internet is a qualitative transformation because Palestinians believe that the internet is essential for their everyday functioning, such as managing their businesses, pursuing their academic studies, and sharing their news all over the world. This transformation clearly challenges the siege, divisions of cities and neighborhoods, and movement limitations. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics reported in 2019 that online access increased to 10%-11% of the population, more than a third of those above 10 years of age, placing Palestine high in Arab world in terms of internet access.

Although the internet and social media have significant advantages for all segments of society, risks and online violence especially SEA, resulted from misuse of internet, have adversely affected children, their lives, and behaviors.

In this context, it becomes necessary to take actions and measures that are in line with modern communication's huge revolution, and to create real communication between children, their parents, teachers, caregivers, and stakeholders in order to protect children from online risks and violence, and promote the rational use of social media and information technology.





# Procedural Measures of Protection in Legislation

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics has issued a statement about statistics on children under the age of 18 in mid- 2020 as follows:

Children	Palestine	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Total	2,269,160 (44.5%)	1293264 (42.4%)	975896 (47.7%)
Males	1,160,729	661,939	498,790
Females	1,108,431	631,325	477,106

The above statistics on children in the Palestinian society are considered as indicative results concerning the significance of this category, particularly in the future plans of the states on the social and economic development, care, and protection. This is due to the fact that the children's protection and care procedures are an integrated process of inclusive development inputs across all levels and concerned sectors especially in especially in crisis and emergency situations.

Children's protection in Palestine through either prevention or response to new and continuous technological developments requires the development of a comprehensive strategy to access measures and take efficient actions by the institutions concerned. Due to instability, and social, economic, and political shocks, vulnerability and marginalization of children has increased along with numerous violations of their rights, calling for a protective environment for children in social, educational, and psychological terms according to the Palestinian Children Act in force.

The obligation of the State of Palestine of children's rights is demonstrated through its recent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The State of Palestine also has prepared and adopted the amended child law. This amended law is more powerful than the original since it reinforces the State's obligation to foster commitments to the Convention.

The State of Palestine has endeavored to abide by the international treaties on children's rights. It also ratified the Palestinian Children Act in 2012. In addition, the State of Palestine is accorded the status of "non-member Observer State" in the United Nations. A resolution on law No. 4 of 2016 has been adopted on the protection of juveniles. In 2013, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education approved the policy of violence reduction and school discipline promotion. It also distributed the policy at the national level.

The State of Palestine spared no effort to develop all possible measures, laws, and policies aiming at children's care and protection. Therefore, the plan generally aims at complementing these efforts particularly children's protection from online violence especially SEA.

The cybercrimes and its prosecution in Palestine have a different situation comparing to various states because the State of Palestine is under Israeli Occupation that has a complete control over the Palestinian cyberspace, giving special considerations in the prosecution.

There are a set of measures, actions, bodies, and laws for children's protection from violence, exploitation and extortion, namely: Cybercrime Law, Cybercrime Unit, and Cybercrime Prosecution. The Cybercrime Law No. (10) of 2018 satisfies the Palestinian national community needs. The cybercrimes have seriously affected the social fabric. Recently, the crimes of extortion and libel along with moral turpitude, harassment, fraud, and stealing information and hacking pages spread to the detriment of the national economy. This law fills the legislative vacuum, and constitutes a legal requirement for the public and international commitment to treaties to which Palestine is a party.

The decision to establish a Cybercrime Prosecution (computer-related crimes) gave a new impetus to the creation of legal conditions, accelerated the enactment of a special law on this type of crimes, and paved the application of cybercrimes and information technology crimes laws. This entails deterring and bringing those who abused telecommunication and information technology to account for their internet-based crimes and cybercrimes.

The Palestinian Cybercrime Law covers a body of law that criminalizes perpetrators of violence against children under the age of 18 including crimes of extortion, and sexual abuse, in particular, articles 15 and 16 of the Cybercrime Law. The crimes defined in this law covers threatening to commit a crime or offending the honor or dignity and transmission or dissemination of pornography. The penalties are confined to confinement for a term that is not less than one year or a fine of not less than one thousand Jordanian dinars and not more than three thousand Jordanian dinars.

The protection includes preventive action through a range of activities aimed at preventing violence, exploitation, and sexual abuse, and/or mitigating their immediate effects leading to an environment, which rejects violence and fully respects the children's rights. In addition, it incorporates remedial action through a range of activities aimed at restoring a child's dignity, and ensuring adequate living conditions through the remedial action and reparations procedures, including the support of established legal procedures and justice processes for survivors, as well as combating impunity.

The Ministry of Education has adopted policies to reduce violence and promote school discipline in the Palestinian schools, with the purpose of protecting students, workers, and teaching staff as well as creating an appropriate educational environment for students and teachers. All this leads to achieving the goals of education process, contribution to promoting a safe school environment, creating positive attitudes, establishing protection system for students and workers in the education sector, and promoting the values of social justice and gender equality.





# Online Violence

# Online Violence

The report of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics on April 5, 2020 states the following:

**1** Approximately two thirds of children (10-17 years) had access to the internet

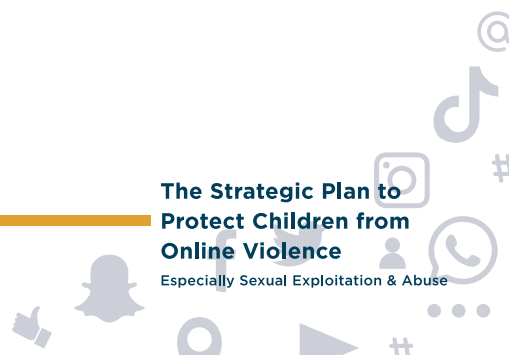
The household survey, conducted by MoTIT in 2019, revealed that the proportion of children (10-17 years) who accessed the internet was 66% in Palestine: 69% in the West Bank and 62% in Gaza Strip; and 68% male children compared to 63% female children. Regarding the pattern of internet use, the data showed that 67% of children -who had online access- have used the internet at least once a day by 72% males compared to 61% females. In addition, 28% of children used the internet at least once a week but not daily by 24% males to 33% females. It also showed that 84% of the families controlled the number of hours per day used by the children (5-17 years) in accessing internet in Palestine; 82% in the West Bank and 86% in Gaza Strip.

**2** About 6 out of 10 children used the social media at the age (10-17 years)

The 2019 data showed that the proportion of children (10-17 years) who used social and professional networks was 64% in Palestine as follows: 71% in the West Bank, 54% in Gaza Strip. The breakdown by sex showed 73% male children compared to 55% female children.

**3** One child out of ten at the age of (12-17 years) were exposed to online violence

The data of the Violence Survey in the Palestinian Society 2019 indicated that 9% of children (12-17 years) experienced a form of online violence (exposure to cyber extortion, threat, harassment, humiliation, and insult on social media) by others on social media as follows: 8% males compared to 10% female children.



The study conducted by the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution in 2019 entitled “Online Security for Children (Safety & Exploitation)” indicated the following:

**1**

### **The daily average hours spent on the internet use**

The study showed that the males have higher average hours spent compared to females as follows: 14.4% males and 23.3% females accessed the internet less than hour daily, while 25.2% males and 21.3% females used the internet from one to five hours daily.

**2**

### **Exposure of children to online harassment**

The above study observed that male children are more exposed to all forms of harassment than females. That is probably because male children are most likely to behave improperly (bold and un-meek behavior), leaving them more subject to harassment. In addition, providing personal information online about males leaves them more subject to harassment than females. The children, who were exposed to sexual harassment in chatrooms, were 3.7% males and 1.0% females. Children who received sexual content or pornographic images were 6.4% males and 2.0% females.

**3**

### **Children’s face-to-face meeting with persons they knew online**

It is noticeable that male children are more capable and bold than females in in-person meetings with people they have known online (24.7% males, 10.8% female). This may be indicative of the patriarchal culture that rarely holds males accountable for their actions, or keeping males away from control. Although the majority of perpetrators of online violence against children are adults, some of them could be juveniles. A juvenile is defined as a child who commits a crime of a felony or misdemeanor, or offense; he is above twelve years and under the age of eighteen when the crime was committed. Those children are considered as victims of bad environments or disadvantaged social and economic circumstances. Such children are one of the following:

**1**

#### **Child in danger (difficult situations threatens the child safety)**

The child who is in one of the risk situations provided for article (44) of Palestinian Children Act No. 7 of 2012, and article (10) of decree law No. 19 of 2012 on amending Palestinian Children Act No. 7 of 2004. These articles identify the situations and what should be done by the State towards children where any risk situations occur.

**2**

#### **Child at risk of delinquency (situation of risk of delinquency)**

The child who is in one of the risk situations provided for article (47) of Palestinian Children Act No. 7 of 2012, and article (11) of decree law No. 19 of 2012 on amending Palestinian Children Act No. 7 of 2004. These articles identify the situations and what should be done by the State towards children where any situation of risk of delinquency occur.

**3**

#### **Child at risk of imminent danger of losing life (situation of imminent danger)**

The child who is in one of the risk situations provided for article (65) of Palestinian Children Act No. 7 of 2012, and article (22) of decree law No. 19 of 2012 on amending Palestinian Children Act No. 7 of 2004. These articles identify the situations and what should be done by the State towards children where situation of imminent danger occurs.





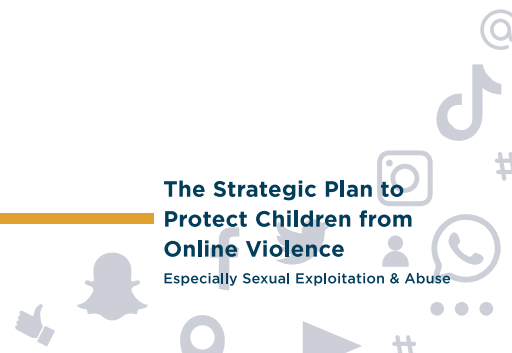
**strategic Plan**

# Significance and Rationale

The protection of children from online violence is a multifaceted issue that requires a comprehensive prevention and multisectoral active response. In addition, it should be organized in a sustainable framework to prevent violations, address issues, and overcome the challenges facing the children and institutions working in the protection sector.

The significance and rationale of children's care and protection from online violence especially SEA are presented in the strategic plan on child protection system 2018-2022. The plan showed a set of gaps and threats to children's care and protection, including:

- Lack of common understanding and harmonized guidance on child protection among the various actors involved.
- Weak coordination between stakeholders and lack of clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and accountability to guarantee consistency and predictability of child protection intervention.
- Low reporting rates of child protection cases or referrals and low awareness on the child protection system and reporting duty.
- Weak implementation and law enforcement as well as non-endorsement of important regulations.
- Weak human and financial resources and logistical support for Child Protection Counselors.
- Gaps in the quality and coverage or equitable access to child protection services. There are a few CBOs that provide specialized but limited services due to short-term funding.
- Lack of minimum standards and follow-up mechanisms for providers of child protection services.
- Limited alternative care options.
- Lack of database/ national management information system.
- Weak mechanisms of supervision, accountability, monitoring, and evaluation of the child protection services and interventions.
- Lack of budget allocations for child protection.
- Weak involvement of children in childhood plans





# The Strategic Plan to Protect Children

In the light of the continuous, new, and emerging issues and challenges in the field of child protection and human rights locally and internationally, there was a need to review a set of laws and legislations of Palestinian children's care and protection. In the light of the preparation of the strategic plan to protect children from online violence especially SEA- as a key strategy for children's protection from online violence, the plan stresses the care and protection of children from sexual exploitation as a critical element to achieve this vision.

This is to allow the government and other stakeholders to reconsider their priorities and procedures in respect of children's protection. The strategic plan to protect children from online violence especially SEA aims at creating and maintaining a protective and preventive environment, as well as supporting and responding to online violence and online sexual exploitation against children.

The strategic plan to protect children from online violence especially SEA provides a coordinated and organized approach to address the key issues and challenges in children's protection. The plan, using the multisectoral approach, enables the stakeholders to get a common understanding and fulfil their obligations under article 13 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child along with the other domestic and international instruments, the Palestinian Children Act, and the strategic plan of the MoSD on the child protection system 2018-2022.

The strategic plan to protect children from online violence especially SEA, as a multisectoral framework, provides the stakeholders with a common understanding of the following:

The key issues and challenges regarding children and violence.

The proposed responses to these issues.

Coordination process.

Level of collaboration required among partners.

This approach includes partnerships, consultations, and effective coordination among all stakeholders of the preparation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the plan. The stakeholders will provide inputs to the strategic dialogue related to priorities identifications, implementation, and results tracking.

The strategic plan supports an integrated rights-based approach. This approach aims at achieving good implementation of integrated systems that focus on child rights- in accordance with the international instruments and the Palestinian laws and legislation- participation, prevention, and protection at all levels.



The plan seeks to bring about an integrated response to online violence against children especially SEA, and to create and preserve a preventive protective environment.

The strategic plan to protect children from online violence especially SEA recognizes the need to adopt child protection approach considering a combination of systemic factors that emphasizes the prevention along with the response and intervention. The strategies focus on creating “protective environment” for children that includes, according to UNICEF, the following:

- 1 Enhance the government's commitment and capacity to the fulfilment of children's protection rights
- 2 Amend, promote, and enforce the appropriate legislation.
- 3 Manage situations, and address norms and harm practices.
- 4 Encourage open discussion of child protection issues.
- 5 Develop children's life skills, knowledge, and participation.
- 6 Build the capacities of families and communities.
- 7 Provide the key prevention, recovery, and reintegration services.
- 8 Establish and implement the ongoing monitoring, reporting, and effective oversight.

# Strategic Objectives:

The strategic plan has four strategic objectives, as follows:

## Strategic Objective One

Building the capacities and promoting community awareness of the children's protection from online violence especially sexual exploitation and abuse.

## Strategic Objective Two

Improving the procedures and developing the systems to facilitate access and accelerate competent cross-sectoral response to children's protection from online violence especially sexual exploitation and abuse.

## Strategic Objective Three

Integrated development by the competent authorities in the provision of professional psychosocial support and social protection mechanisms for children and juveniles within the investigations and prosecutions.

## Strategic Objective Four

Strengthening the coordination and data exchange across sectors at the national level.

## Results:

A set of results are proposed to follow up the implementation of the strategic plan during the five-year period. The results are identified taking into account their relevance to the goal that involves current and new results. The Monitoring and Evaluation Committee is expected to review the findings on annual basis as part of the annual review. The plan has identified four significant results, namely:

### Result One

Child protection and care workers on child online protection have adequate awareness and high capacities.

### Result Two

The accessibility for and response of all relevant sectors to online violence cases of children is enhanced.

### Result Three

The mechanisms of professional psychological support provision and social protection for children are developed in an integrated manner.

### Result Four

Different sectors function well through coordination and data exchange.

# Activities and Interventions:

The activities and interventions of the strategic plan are the following:

- 1** Develop training programs on children's protection from online violence especially sexual exploitation and abuse to train and qualify all partners in child protection and care.
- 2** Train and qualify the providers of protection for children from online violence especially SEA.
- 3** Train and qualify the caregivers of children victims for online violence especially SEA.
- 4** Incorporate and promote protection concepts into the education system accompanied by training and qualifying for school students and their parents.
- 5** - Train and qualify the community-based organizations (CBOs) working on child protection and care.  
- Qualify and provide community awareness for parents and their children through the CBOs.
- 6** Involve the student parliaments in schools in the development of awareness-raising programs directed for children on their rights and responsibilities towards themselves and society.
- 7** Develop the submission of reports and complaints.
- 8** Review of child protection laws, in particular those relating to child online protection especially from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- 9** Develop the procedural and judicial system in the cybercrimes.
- 10** Develop the procedural system in police (Family Protection Unit, Cybercrime Unit, and Family Protection from Violence Unit- PP).
- 11** Increase the government cadres and provision of necessary equipment, tools, and apparatus.

- 12** Create a public social media page for provision of psychological, social, and legal support services so as to allow the participation of all relevant partners providing protection and care.
- 13** Rehabilitate the juveniles: provision of psychosocial support services and awareness raising for children in conflict with law.
- 14** Collaboration among competent ministries (the partners in the preparation, formulation, implementation of the strategic plan).
- 15** Review the referral system and case management protocol among governmental and non-governmental bodies.
- 16** Conclude international cooperation agreements.
- 17** Conduct studies and researches on children's protection from online violence especially sexual exploitation and abuse.
- 18** Devote an item to the national database for the affected children.

## **Rationale of a Review: Idea, Preparation, and Formulation:**

The strategic plan has been in the planning stages since 2019, when the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution conducted round-table discussions, workshops with relevant bodies, and meetings with children, their parents, police officers from the Cybercrime Unit and Family Protection Unit, representatives of Child Protection Network, school counselors in the MoE, and other institutions and groups regarding child protection. Their notes, perspectives, interactions, and inputs constituted the first material of this strategic plan. The Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution cooperated with MoSD that is responsible for this plan, the efforts on its formulation and preparation with the partners, and its implementation, evaluation and management.

The preparation and revision of the strategic plan for the integrated response for children's protection was consultative and participatory processes despite the restrictions of COVID-19. They include inputs from a wide range of stakeholders and partners including the government ministries, departments, agencies and CBOs.

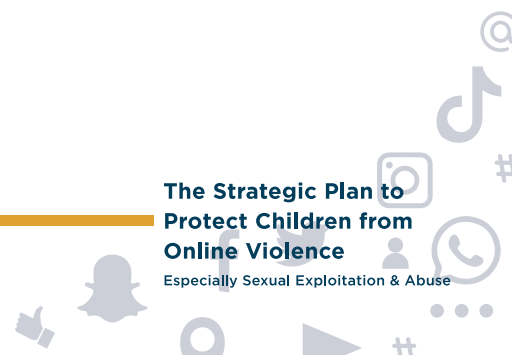
A dialogue discussion was conducted with the partners in the preparation and formulation of the plan (government authorities) to discuss all plan details, including objectives, activities, results, capacities and possibilities of intervention, and distribution of tasks. PCDCR also conducted sessions with various groups of children, parents, and CBOs working on child protection in different governorates.

## **Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation:**

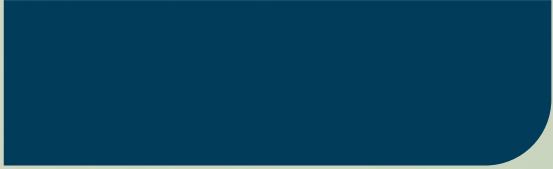
The Implementation of the strategic plan will be carried out by the relevant ministries, departments, and agencies within the government, along with the non-government organizations and institutions concerned.

A number of ministries and government entities are in charge of children's protection. They are responsible for implementing and evaluating the plan's activities and interventions, according to their respective competences. They include the Ministry of Social Development (Child Protection Network), Ministry of Education and UNRWA (Family and Child Protection Program), the Palestinian Police (Family and Juvenile Protection Unit), Public Prosecution (Juvenile Protection Unit), Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, Ministry of Health, High Judicial Council, as well as non-government organizations.

Although the plan will be implemented by the stakeholders involved in the child protection system within their programs, the primary responsible ministry for children, which is MoSD bears the ultimate responsibility for multisectoral coordination of plan implementation. The Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, composed of all the ministries and entities involved in the formulation and implementation of the plan, is responsible for implementing and evaluating the strategic plan under the management of MoSD.







# Pain Framework

# Strategic Objective One

Building the capacities and promoting community awareness of the children's protection from online violence especially sexual exploitation and abuse.

**Table of the Strategic Plan to Protect Children from Online Violence Especially Sexual Exploitation & Abuse 2021-2025**

Activities		Working Mechanism	Responsibility of Activities Management	Results	Year of Implementation				
1.1	Develop training programs on children's protection from online violence especially SEA to train and qualify all partners in child protection and care.	Form a Training Committee consisting of the partners for preparing and formulating the training and qualification program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Committee</li> <li>• All partners in the formulation and preparation of the plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and qualification needs are identified for each protection and care partner</li> <li>• The training program is designed for each protection and care partner</li> <li>• The time-bound training plan is conducted.</li> </ul>	1	2	3	4	5
1.2	Train and qualify the caregivers of children victims of online violence especially SEA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the trainers and set a time-frame during the lifetime of the plan by the Training Committee.</li> <li>▪ Identify the trainees</li> <li>▪ Deliver training courses and workshops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Committee</li> <li>• Police (Cybercrime Unit, and Family Protection Unit)</li> <li>• High Judicial Council (Judges)</li> <li>• PP (The three prosecutions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers have good capacities and potentials for children's protection from online violence especially sexual exploitation and extortion</li> </ul>					
1.3	Train and qualify the children caregivers in online violence against children especially SEA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the trainers and set a time-frame during the lifetime of the plan by the Training Committee.</li> <li>▪ Identify the trainees</li> <li>▪ Deliver training courses and workshops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoSD (CPN)</li> <li>• MoH (health educators, and Psychological counsellors, and workers)</li> <li>• MoE (school counselors, teaching staff, and governing body)</li> <li>• UNRWA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers have good capacities and potentials for children's protection from online violence especially sexual exploitation and extortion</li> </ul>					

**The Strategic Plan to Protect Children from Online Violence**

Activities		Working Mechanism	Responsibility of Activities Management	Results	Year of Implementation				
1.4	Develop training programs on children's protection from online violence especially SEA to train and qualify all partners in child protection and care.	Form a Training Committee consisting of the partners for preparing and formulating the training and qualification program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Committee</li> <li>• All partners in the formulation and preparation of the plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and qualification needs are identified for each protection and care partner</li> <li>• The training program is designed for each protection and care partner</li> <li>• The time-bound training plan is conducted.</li> </ul>	1	2	3	4	5
1.5	Train and qualify the caregivers of children victims of online violence especially SEA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the trainers and set a time-frame during the lifetime of the plan by the Training Committee.</li> <li>▪ Identify the trainees</li> <li>▪ Deliver training courses and workshops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Committee</li> <li>• Police (Cybercrime Unit, and Family Protection Unit)</li> <li>• High Judicial Council (Judges)</li> <li>• PP (The three prosecutions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers have good capacities and potentials for children's protection from online violence especially sexual exploitation and extortion</li> </ul>					
1.6	Train and qualify the children caregivers in online violence against children especially SEA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the trainers and set a time-frame during the lifetime of the plan by the Training Committee.</li> <li>▪ Identify the trainees</li> <li>▪ Deliver training courses and workshops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoSD (CPN)</li> <li>• MoH (health educators, and Psychological counsellors, and workers)</li> <li>• MoE (school counselors, teaching staff, and governing body)</li> <li>• UNRWA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers have good capacities and potentials for children's protection from online violence especially sexual exploitation and extortion</li> </ul>					

## The Strategic Plan to Protect Children from

### Online Violence



## Strategic Objective Two

### Table of the Strategic Plan to Protect Children from Online Violence Especially Sexual Exploitation & Abuse 2021-2025

Improving the procedures and developing the systems to facilitate access and accelerate competent cross-sectoral response to children's protection from online violence especially sexual exploitation and abuse.

Activities		Working Mechanism		Responsibility of Activities Management		Results		Year of Implementation				
2.1	Develop the submission of reports and complaints.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪Contract with a partner or technological company to design an electronic application to facilitate reporting, complaints, and protection provision without prejudice to The Law of Penal Procedure No. 3 of 2001 regarding the the penal complaints and all relevant issues.</li><li>▪Contact MoTIT to facilitate establishing a uniform toll-free hotline for protection and care</li><li>▪Deploy the application and publish the toll-free hotline</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪MoSD</li><li>▪Police</li><li>▪PP</li><li>▪MoTIT</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>●A well-developed electronic application and user-friendly for victims of online violence.</li><li>●The toll-free hotline is easy to memorize and circulate.</li><li>●Children victims of violence, caregivers and protection providers have easy access to the electronic application and toll-free hotline</li></ul>								
2.2	Review of child protection laws, in particular those relating to child online protection especially from SEA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪MoSD leads the efforts of child protection laws review to amend and develop them in consultation with PP, MoJ, and police.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪MoSD</li><li>▪PP</li><li>▪MoJ</li><li>▪Police</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>●Legislative amendments on the complaints mechanisms have been submitted by the child, and witnesses along with its competency</li><li>●Laws became clearer on prosecution and adjudication of perpetrators (of online violence especially SEA)</li></ul>								

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Activities	Working Mechanism	Responsibility of Activities Management	Results	Year of Implementation				
				1	2	3	4	5
2.3	Develop the procedural and judicial system in the cybercrimes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪HJC</li> <li>▪MoSD</li> <li>▪PP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Judicial authorities that is specialized in cybercrimes professionally work in the courts</li> <li>●One day a week of the work of courts is dedicated for cybercrime issues</li> <li>●Protection providers practiced their work on child protection well based on the action guide to protect children from online violence especially SEA</li> </ul>			●		
2.4	Develop the procedural system in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪police (Family Protection Unit, Cybercrime Unit, Violence Unit- PP).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Police</li> <li>▪MoSD</li> <li>▪PP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Solutions are provided to address the dismissal of children compliant</li> <li>●Data on child protection are protected by strong laws</li> <li>●Protection providers enjoyed broad powers in child protection work</li> <li>●Protection providers practiced their work on child protection well based on the action guide to protect children from online violence especially SEA.</li> <li>●Protection providers followed up on cases after intervention and their implications.</li> </ul>			●		
2.5	Increase the government cadres and provision of necessary equipment, tools, and apparatus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪MoSD</li> <li>▪Police</li> <li>▪PP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Efficiency of protection and care services for children is improved through increasing the workers number.</li> <li>●Efficiency of protection and care services for children is improved through provision of necessary equipment, tools, and apparatus.</li> </ul>					●

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## Strategic Objective Three

### Table of the Strategic Plan to Protect Children from Online Violence Especially Sexual Exploitation & Abuse 2021-2025

Integrated development by the competent authorities in the provision of professional psychosocial support and social protection mechanisms for children and juveniles within the investigations and prosecutions.

	Activities	Working Mechanism	Responsibility of Activities Management	Results	Year of Implementation				
					1	2	3	4	5
3.1	Create a public social media page for provision of psychological, social, and legal support services so as to allow the participation of all relevant partners providing protection and care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hold workshops with all partners in the preparation and formulation of the plan to assist in identifying the page goals and how it works.</li> <li>▪ Contract with technological company for the page design, if needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MoSD</li> <li>▪ MoTIT</li> <li>▪ MoE</li> <li>▪ UNRWA (Family and Child Protection Program)</li> <li>▪ PP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and their parents receive protection and care services and counselling through the psychosocial support page.</li> </ul>				●	
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rehabilitate the juveniles.</li> <li>▪ Provide psychosocial support services and awareness raising for children in conflict with law.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a system and action policy to rehabilitate the juveniles psychologically and socially, and provide psychosocial support services for children in conflict with law.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Police</li> <li>▪ MoSD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work of protection and care services providers (protection and care partners) is organized and facilitated by an agreed system on the provision of psychosocial support services and rehabilitation for children in conflict with law.</li> <li>• Children in conflict with law receive psychological and social support, rehabilitation, and awareness services on the digital citizenship and children's rights from (protection and care partners).</li> </ul>				●	

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## Strategic Objective Four

**Table of the Strategic Plan to Protect Children from Online Violence Especially Sexual Exploitation & Abuse 2021-2025**

Strengthening the coordination and data exchange across sectors at the national level.

	Activities	Working Mechanism	Responsibility of Activities Management	Results	Year of Implementation				
					1	2	3	4	5
4.1	Collaboration among competent ministries (the partners in the preparation, formulation, implementation of the strategic plan).	■ Hold workshops between the relevant ministries to find formulas for cooperation in order to manage the plan implementation (partners in the preparation and formulation of the plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ MoSD</li> <li>■ MoTIT</li> <li>■ Police</li> <li>■ HJC</li> <li>■ MoE</li> <li>■ UNRWA (Family and Child Protection Program)</li> <li>■ PP</li> <li>■ All partners in the formulation and preparation of the plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Partners in the preparation and formulation of the plan agreed upon memorandum of understanding and joint work</li> <li>● Partners in the preparation and formulation of the plan developed a monitoring and evaluation plan.</li> <li>● Partners in the preparation and formulation of the plan implemented, monitored, and well-evaluated the plan.</li> </ul>	●	●	●	●	●
4.2	Review the referral system and case management protocol among governmental and non-governmental bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hold various workshops with all different parties to explore mechanisms and ways, and to reach consensus on adopted referral system in order to coordinate:</li> <li>■ Coordinate support and protection services</li> <li>■ Coordinate judicial and prosecution process</li> <li>■ Coordinate referral services</li> <li>■ Coordinate shelter services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ MoSD</li> <li>■ Police</li> <li>■ MoE</li> <li>■ UNRWA (Family and Child Protection Program)</li> <li>■ PP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Referral system and case management protocol are strong and agreed-upon and strong</li> <li>● A clear and agreed-upon memorandum of understanding facilitates the processes of case management among partners in the preparation and formulation of the plan.</li> </ul>				●	●

Activities		Working Mechanism	Responsibility of Activities Management	Results	Year of Implementation				
4.3	Conclude international cooperation agreements.	▪ Look for international partnerships and international/regional coordination for child protection	▪ PP ▪ MoJ ▪ Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International and regional cooperation agreements are concluded for experience exchange and strengthening the child protection cooperation</li> <li>• A cooperation agreement with The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (EViAC)</li> </ul>	1	2	3	4	5
4.4	Conduct studies and researches on children's protection from online violence especially SEA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hold workshops with the partners in the preparation and formulation of the plan to determine the necessity and the process of gathering information.</li> <li>▪ Form Studies, Researches, and Database Development Committee to identify the priorities and timeline of the studies and researches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MoSD</li> <li>▪ Police</li> <li>▪ PP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners, researchers, and those who are interested in children's affairs have references, researches, and studies related to child care and protection from online violence especially sexual exploitation and abuse.</li> </ul>					
4.5	Devote an item to the national database for the affected children.	▪ Hold workshops with all parties to address how to devote an item for children to the national government database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MoSD</li> <li>▪ Police</li> <li>▪ PP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers work efficiently to care for and protect victims (affected children) through an updated government database (developed database).</li> <li>• A professional staff is trained on the updated database (dedicated database).</li> <li>• The dedicated database system is included in the systems of partners in the preparation and formulation of the plan, protection parties, and government care parties.</li> </ul>					

## The Strategic Plan to Protect Children from

### Online Violence

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**The Palestinian Center for Democracy and  
Conflict Resolution gratefully  
acknowledges financial support provided  
for this Program by the Fund to End  
Violence Against Children**



# **End Violence Against Children**



**Coordination of Preparation :**

**The Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict  
Resolution (PCDCR)**

**Funded by:**

**Fund to End Violence Against Children (EVAC)**

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**2021-2025**