



Government focal points

Rym Abdullah Al Falasy
Secretary General of the
Supreme Council for
Motherhood and Childhood

Pathfinding since May 2018



Government
Contacts and
References

Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

2006

Federal Act No. 51 of 2006 was passed, which includes articles for protecting children from human trafficking.

2016

Federal Act No. 3 of 2016 (Wadeema's Law) was passed, protecting children from different forms of negligence, exploitation, and physical and psychological abuse. The Act goes beyond what is explicitly allowed in the legal code. but continues to recognize the "right" of parents to "discipline". their child.

2017

The National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood 2017-2021 was launched.

2017

The Strategic Plan for the Rights of Children with Disabilities 2017-2021 was launched.

2018

The UAE accepted an explicit recommendation from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to ban corporal punishment in all settings, expressing a political commitment to doing so and stating that "many of the recommendations it had supported had been or were in the process of being implemented."



Multi-stakeholder
Collaboration and
Consultation
with Children

Several ministries from different sectors collaborate on children's issues, including health, education, social affairs, and women and children. When drafting the *National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood 2017-2021* and the *Strategic Plan for the Rights of Children with Disabilities 2017-2021*, civil society, including organizations, children and their families, were consulted. Sharjah has become the region's first Child Friendly City, and there has been some consultation with children about the potential of rights-respecting schools.

The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood (SCMC) established a task force composed of multiple ministries (including the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Protection, Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Community Development) to develop a comprehensive action plan to end violence against children with technical support from UNICEF. The task force is organizing wide consultations with all federal and local authorities and civil society dealing with children to discuss the framework of the proposed action plan.

The UAE is a member country of the WeProtect Global Alliance and has dedicated to ending child online sexual exploitation. It is also a member of the League of Arab States, which has made regional efforts to end violence against children through its Steering Committee on Violence against Children.

- The Ministry of Information tracks information on “crimes against family” and “crimes against persons” within each emirate, but specific prevalence data on violence against children has not been disaggregated.
- The Supreme Council of Motherhood and Childhood has been working on compiling an integrated database on children, including on protection from violence and abuse.
- As of 2015, the UAE (under the direction of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood and with assistance from UNICEF) was granted approval and budgetary resources to conduct a Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS5). However, the results of the UAE’s participation in MICS5 are not currently available.
- The Dubai Foundation for Women and Children has collected data related to violence in schools and is expected to launch the findings soon.



Data Collection and Situation Analysis



Collective Action and INSPIRE

- The UAE has been very involved in ending violence in schools. Between 2016-2017, a full anti-bullying program was introduced and has now been mainstreamed to all public schools in the UAE. Additionally, in 2018, the Ministry of Education participated on the UNICEF-UNESCO to end violence in schools. The UAE is a member of the Global Partnership’s Safe to Learn campaign.
- The SCMC is currently planning to organize a regional training of trainers on the seven INSPIRE strategies, as well as a seminar on best practices of response mechanisms, especially reporting and referral mechanisms.
- The Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWC) is a civil society organization that offers protection and support services for women and children who face domestic violence, abuse and human trafficking. DFWC currently conducts child protection community awareness campaigns, operates a helpline service for all residents of Dubai and the UAE, and holds workshops for students, parents, school staff members, and social workers on children’s rights and indicators of abuse. They are additionally working on conducting research on the prevalence and magnitude of violence against children in the UAE, as well as trends in human trafficking.

Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Reported to the CRC in 2015.
Underwent UPR in 2018.



Reported to the High-Level Political Forum in 2018.



Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

Build political will/ global movement

1. Encourage law reform that prohibits corporal in the home, alternative care settings, daycare and schools.
2. Under the leadership of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, develop a multi-sectoral Road Map that includes core indicators to track UAE’s progress towards ending violence against children.

Equip practitioners

3. Explore a university-community collaboration for the region.
4. Work with the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children to launch data collected in schools.
5. Organize a policy dialogue with the Ministry of Education on the Handbook to prevent schools-based violence (UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO).
6. Support the translation of INSPIRE into Arabic and develop a capacity-building strategy for the region.