
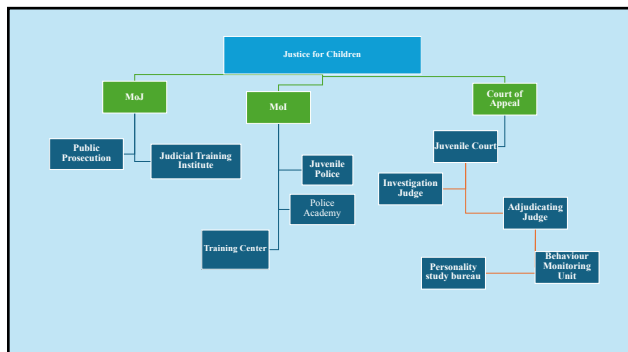
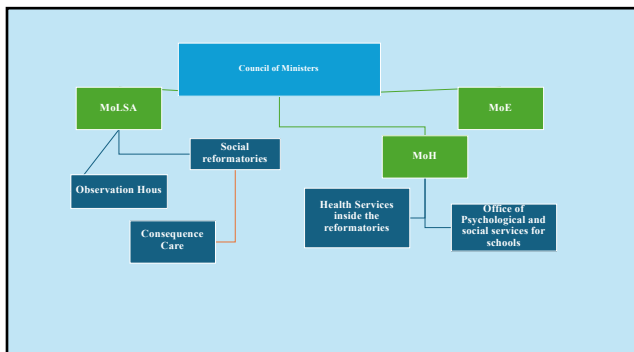
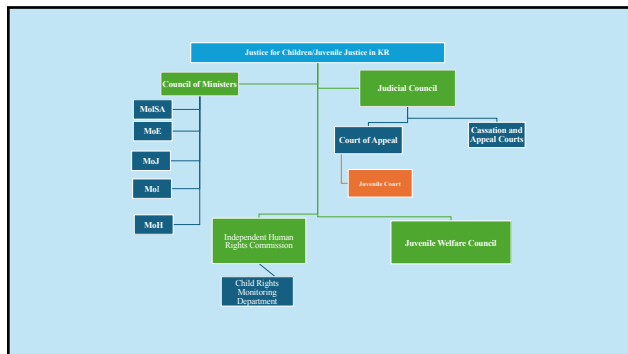


Juvenile Justice Structure
 Webinar
 AIMJF
 February 26th, 2025

Challenges facing Justice for Children in Kurdistan Region-Iraq
 Webinar
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Challenges
Laws and policies

- Juvenile Welfare Law No. 76/1983 was enacted prior to the adoption of the UNCRC and the date of the signing by the state of Iraq, as a result, some articles do not align with international standards and norms.
- The Act does not clearly state the powers of the Court.
- There is no specialization in children's justice within either the justice or police sectors.

**Challenges
Laws and policies**

- There is no reference to status offenses, and it is not clear which behaviors are defined as a risk for delinquency and what social researchers assigned to schools are to do when they identify such risks in a child.
- The law does not clearly outline alternative measures, particularly diversion programs, that would offer the court a variety of sentencing options to ensure that institutionalizing a child is considered only as a last resort.
- Strategy/Policy: Absence of a national or regional approach to prevent child delinquency.

**Challenges
Coordination mechanism**

- **Juvenile Welfare Council:** The Juvenile Welfare Council in Kurdistan Region, currently the highest coordination body, faces challenges due to the limited technical inexperience of its members in the field of juvenile justice.
- **National Coordination Mechanism:** The lack of coordination between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the federal government has caused legal challenges, particularly in relation to the amendment of juvenile justice laws

**Challenges
Budget Constraints**

- The financial crisis in Kurdistan has resulted in inadequate or no budget allocation for juvenile justice initiatives, hindering efforts to address gaps and strengthen the justice system for children.

**Challenges
Limited Training opportunities**

- There is a shortage of opportunities for both internal and external training programs, as well as involvement in international events.

**Good practices in relation to some particularly important aspects of access to justice for children.
Kurdistan Region-Iraq**

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Good Practices

- Conduct a comprehensive mapping and assessment of Juvenile Justice in KR:
- Reactivation of the High Coordination Mechanism:
- Institutionalization of capacity building.
- Digitalization of the juvenile court including implementation of a video conferencing system for remote trials

Good Practices

- Reactivation of Monitoring Behavior (Probation Services/Promote alternative measures.
- Enhancing the role of Public Prosecutors in the child justice system.
- Establishment of the National Independent Human Rights Directorate with the authority to receive individual complaints submitted by or on behalf of children.