



صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان

Country Assessment on Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Lebanon





**The Arab Institute for Human Rights- United Nations Population
Fund- Lebanon**

2019

Executive Summary


Introduction

Sexual and reproductive rights are intended mainly at preserving a person's health, dignity and private life while respecting personal choices and improving livelihood. They are associated to yet another set of basic human rights and freedoms that assert the principles of equality, prohibit discrimination and remove any obstacle to rights and services. Nevertheless, sexual and reproductive rights are often misread by many people, either because of deficient knowledge and wrong beliefs or due to inherited social norms and legacies.

Grounded in a set of rights and freedoms, sexual and reproductive rights are intended at preserving human dignity i.e. individual and collective physical and moral integrity. They secure the right of every individual to an identity, civil status, and freedom of expression and opinion with regards to sexual and reproductive matters. They guarantee the right to a private life, to choose one's sexual life without being subjected to discrimination and violence, to found a family or not, to enjoy the best possible medical conditions, to provide access to contraception and medical care especially for women, whatever their civil or legal status, to preserve the right to benefit from scientific advancement in the reproductive and sexual domains, and the right to access care and treatment including against Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). In short, they intersect with the universal and comprehensive human rights.

Sexual and reproductive rights are inclusive human rights as they relate to all aspects of individual and collective life. They are also mainly based on the same core principles: universality, comprehensiveness, connectedness, complementarity, non-differentiation, and inclusiveness for all individuals without any discrimination on the basis of sex, color, race, language, nationality, sexual choices and orientation, gender identity, religion, opinion and thoughts.

These rights endorse the specificities of women, children, persons with disabilities, refugees, migrants and whomever may find himself/herself in a precarious or vulnerable situation for social, medical, physical, psychological, legal or security reasons. Since these rights are applicable to all individuals irrespective of their age, sex, social, medical, physical or sexual condition, the fulfillment of sexual and reproductive rights requires substantial interventions.



They are first the responsibility of the State including its public institutions, legislative and executive. Second, they are the responsibility of the judiciary system. Third, they are as well a responsibility of national and international CSOs. In fact, the civil society is required to raise awareness and advocate for these rights that are considered full-fledged human rights. It must thrive to eliminate legal, procedural, administrative, social and cultural barriers to access and achieve these rights and embrace them as fundamental human rights.

The problem that this report addresses

The focus of this report is to concentrate the efforts of relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions on issues of family planning services and addressing some of the prevailing forms of sexual violence, focus on the role of awareness, provide services related to sexual and reproductive health, integrate the rights-based approach in the work of ministries and relevant bodies, and consider the reproductive and sexual rights as human rights applicable to men, women, children and anyone who is affected as a result of harmful practices in this field.

Thus, the present report seeks to monitor the efforts made in recent years on reproductive and sexual health rights issues, and the awareness, knowledge and willingness of all actors to promote these rights, with presenting a set of recommendations that focus on developing the policies and programs of public institutions and CSOs while urging them to improve the quality of their work and facilitate the access of beneficiaries to such rights.

Objective of the Report

The AIHR - Beirut office, in partnership with the UNFPA in Lebanon prepared a national report on monitoring and enforcing sexual and reproductive rights mechanisms in Lebanon.

The main goal revolves around three main axes:

First: Monitor the commitment of the Government of Lebanon to all international treaties and covenants relating to reproductive and sexual rights;

Second: monitoring national laws and policies, examining commitments to their implementation and the main challenges faced.

Third: suggesting a road map with all the programs and mechanisms that governmental and non-governmental bodies can implement in Lebanon to facilitate access to sexual and reproductive rights in Lebanon.

Report Methodology

The report uses qualitative research methodology primarily based on a desk review of the available literature and an overview of the historic context, in an attempt to understand the evolution of sexual and reproductive rights in the country, in addition to collating an overview of the main international conventions and agreements on sexual and reproductive rights and Lebanon's commitment to them.

A comprehensive and in-depth field research was conducted by a team of experts: individual interviews (IIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted targeting all ministries, NGOs, stakeholders, rights-owners and relevant national institutions. The methodology overviewed the public plans of action and the strategies to recognize and protect sexual and reproductive rights and examine the extent to which they meet international criteria, while assessing the work of the CSOs that have efficiently contributed to current State policies.

To ensure a scientific and objective approach, a steering committee including governmental, ministerial and non-governmental representatives was established. The committee was entrusted with identifying stakeholders, agreeing on goals, following up on implementation mechanisms and offering technical support to researchers when and if needed.



Definition of the Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The sexual and reproductive rights are associated with civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights. They are an integral part of the universal human rights system. Though there is no comprehensive agreement for these rights, they are nevertheless derived from the following human rights instruments:

- UDHR
- ICESCR
- ICCPR and its two optional protocols
- UNCAT and CEDAW to name a few

Sexual and reproductive rights revolve around:

- the right to life
- the right to live without torture
- the right to health
- the right to privacy
- the right to education
- the right to prohibit discrimination

Sexual rights are gender-based rights are founded on the principles of freedom, equality, privacy, independence and dignity for all.

Sexual and reproductive rights are related to the interpretation of gender and reproduction from a human rights perspective. Thus they revolve around 4 main axes:

- sexual health
- sexual rights
- reproductive health
- reproductive rights

Sexual and reproductive rights encompass fundamental rights including:

- the right to human dignity and equality
- the right to non-discrimination
- the right to physical integrity and self-determination (capacity to make decisions)
- the right to privacy and private freedoms, security and individual freedom
- the right to medical care including reproductive health and the rights of children

Progress in Recognition of Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The historical link between sexual and reproductive rights on one hand and human rights on the other hand derives from:

- first: demographic movement
- second: feminist movement

The recognition of sexual and reproductive rights evolved thanks to the many UN international conferences and structures starting with the Cairo conference followed by the Beijing Conference.

The sources of reproductive and sexual rights are numerous and mainly encompass the statements of international conferences and the 2030 sustainable development Goals especially under Goals 4, 3, and 5. These rights are connected to the other rights established in the international human rights conventions, revolving around securing human dignity, non-discrimination, equality and freedom especially respecting the specificities of individuals and prohibiting the State's arbitrary intervention in the lives of individuals.



Part I:

Legal Framework of Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The legal framework is related to the guarantees under the legal national and international texts on sexual and reproductive rights. They protect individuals in general using human rights. These rights are derived from international texts, whether ratified or not by Lebanon, and the special rules related to a specific type of human rights related to women, children, refugees and migrants.

Legal framework on Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The sexual and reproductive rights fall within:

- The ICESCR joined by Lebanon on November 1972 ,3
- The UNCAT ratified by Lebanon on October 2000 ,5
- The UNCRC joined by Lebanon in 1990 without any reservations
- The Optional Protocol to the UNCRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography joined by Lebanon in 2002
- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children joined by Lebanon in 2005.
- The CEDAW joined by Lebanon in 1996 without any reservation save on Article 1) 16) (e) on ensuring that women have the same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights.
- The rights of persons with disabilities remain diminished since Lebanon did not ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol. The said convention and protocol were signed by June 2007 ,14.

1- The CRDP and its optional protocols were adopted on December 13, 2006 at the UN Headquarters in New York. Signature was open on March 30, 2007.

Sexual and reproductive rights in the Lebanese Positive Law

First - Modest Recognition of Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The Lebanese Constitution preamble² stipulates that Lebanon **“is committed by the UN covenants and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Government embodies these principles in all fields and areas without exception”**.

Article 7 stipulates that **“All Lebanese shall be equal in Law. They shall equally enjoy civil and political rights and shall equally be bound by public obligations and duties without any distinction”**.

1- Protecting physical dignity and integrity

Physical dignity and integrity are as follows:

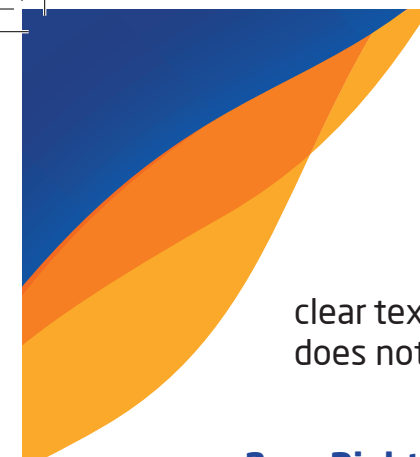
- **Incriminating physical aggression:** Article 503 of the Lebanese Criminal Law provides for the following: **“whoever forces sexual intercourse against someone who is not his wife by violence or threat shall be punishable by forced labor for at least 5 years and the sentence shall not be less than 7 years if the victim has not reached the aged of 15.”** Article 504 severs the sentence if the victim is a person with disability and was not of sound mind.
- **Physical protection:** Lebanon enacted the Law on the Protection of Women and their Family Members from Domestic Violence³.
- **Incrimination of trafficking in persons:** Lebanon enacted Anti-Trafficking Law No 2011/164; however, it failed to protect the victims or to offer a clear and comprehensive definition of human trafficking.
- **Protecting delinquent or vulnerable youth:** Law⁴ No 422 issued on June ,6 2002. There is no law incriminating sexual harassment in Lebanon. The Labor Code does not include any article incriminating sexual harassment in the places of work. It is true that rape is punishable under the Lebanese Criminal Law, nevertheless there is still a major gap resulting from the absence of a

2- The Preamble was added to the Constitution as per the Constitutional Law issued on September 21, 1990.

3- Law on the Protection of Women and their Family Members from Domestic Violence No 293 dated May 7, 2014. <http://www.isf.gov.lb/files/293.pdf>

4- Anti-Trafficking Law No 164 dated August 2011.

5- The Lebanese legislator is required to amend Article 503 of the Criminal Law incriminating marital rape.



clear text punishing marital rape⁵, the law on incriminating domestic violence does not identify nor provide for sexual violence.

-2 Right to Health

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in the concluding remarks on Lebanon's second report to the UPR⁶, warned the member state in its general comment number 2000) 14) about the right to the highest attainable standard of health which provides obligations to protect include, inter alia, the duties of States to adopt legislation or to take other measures ensuring equal access to health care and health-related services provided by third parties⁷".

The Lebanese legislator intervened under the Law on Persons with Disabilities⁸ to provide whoever submits a disability card with medical and rehabilitation services in addition to support services at the expense of the State.

The Law on the Protection of the Youth provides for supervising the medical and psychological health of young persons (Articles 10 and 13). National and international legislations focus on reproductive and sexual health before and after marriage. Decree No 78 issued on September 1983 ,9 amended by Law No 334 dated May 1994 ,18 required a premarital certificate however, the enforcement decree remain yet to be issued.

The State did not take fair measures to prevent HIV/AIDS by means of Circular No 35 issued on July 1988 ,20 "Declaration on behalf of the Lebanese State on Combating HIV/AIDS in Lebanon".

-3 Combating Discrimination against Migrants and Refugees

The legal situation of refugees in Lebanon does not match the international guarantees of their protection. Lebanon has not ratified the Convention relating to the Status of the Refugees⁹ which makes the national legal guarantees for protection quasi inexistent. As for migrants, Lebanon did not ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families or the ILO Convention No 97 on Migrant Workers.

Second: Manifestations of the Obstacles to Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Reproductive Rights are breached as follows:

6- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Concluding Remarks about Lebanon's second report submitted on October 24, 2016 E/C.12/LBN/CO/2

7- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - General Remark No 14 about the right to the highest attainable standard of health. Lebanon's second report submitted on October 24, 2016 E/C.12/LBN/CO/2

8- Law No 220 dated May 29, 2000.

- incriminating any intercourse that is against nature
- violating sexual and reproductive rights: further to Article 534 of the Criminal law, homosexuality is incriminated, offenders are subjected to arbitrary arrests, inhumane treatment and compulsory anal tests.
- restricting a women's freedom is disposing of her body is many cases: for example abortion is a crime in Lebanon, punishable by Article 539 to 549 of the Criminal Law. The legislator does not recognize a women's right to changing her sexual identity.

9- The Convention was adopted by the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, held pursuant to resolution 429 (V), adopted by the General Assembly on the United Nations on 14 December 1950, Article 43.



Part II:

Institutional Framework related to Sexual and Reproductive Rights

First axis: factors limiting government's work in the field of sexual and reproductive rights and obstacles to sexual and reproductive rights revolving around:

Chapter one: Ministries' Understanding of Sexual and Reproductive Rights and their Relation with the International System

Findings from the qualitative research show that the Lebanese State does not have a definition of the sexual and reproductive rights that is aligned with the International Framework of Human Rights. Most of the Ministries consider that sexual and reproductive rights are the ones related to the services of reproductive health. The other aspects related to the sexual rights were not found in the answers except for the national program against Aids.

The answers given by ministries show that the link between sexual and reproductive rights and the international human rights system is not accurate. There is confusion between defining these rights and the relevant international conventions since Ministries are not cognizant of the many international conventions, even those that are ratified by the Lebanese State. This shows that there is no in-depth knowledge of sexual and reproductive rights and their relevant conventions.

Second axis: Policies, plans and programs undertaken by ministries in order to develop sexual and reproductive rights

The official bodies are attempting to improve the sexual and reproductive rights. The State policy on linking sexual and reproductive rights is based on the following:

- equality and non-discrimination
- physical integrity
- right to life
- right to self-determination
- privacy

- peace and personal freedom
- right to medical care including reproductive medical care
- the rights of the child

Measures related to securing sexual and reproductive rights:

Sexual and reproductive rights are secured though at different levels. The obvious plans are those adopted by the Ministry of Public Health, MoSA, and the NCLW since they are in harmony with the international criteria for human rights.

First: Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is mainly involved in mainstreaming sexual and reproductive health for the reasons below:

- it devised the National Program on Combating AIDS
- it determined its strategic tendency using the National Program for Electronic Health for 2013. The same year the Strategic Plan of Action on Primary Health Care was launched in partnership with the civil society, ministries and municipalities.
- in 2016, the comprehensive project on primary health care kicked off as a preliminary step towards a comprehensive medical coverage
- the Ministry offers relentless support to the primary health care of Syrian refugees
- the Ministry offers trainings to care providers namely physicians, nurses and legal midwives on sexual and reproductive health however these rights are not available at all centers especially in rural areas.

The plans remain insufficient. Despite the availability of sexual and reproductive services to everyone without any discrimination on grounds of nationality (Lebanese and non Lebanese), or civil status (married or single), the marginalized groups nevertheless cannot access sexual and reproductive health services either because they are not aware of the relevant information or because they are inaccessible; the law constricts a woman's freedom to terminate unwanted pregnancies despite the increased risks of unsafe abortion - abortion is forbidden under the Lebanese Law.



Second: Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)

In 2010 the Ministry incepted a unit on sexual and reproductive health in order to increase awareness about sexual and reproductive health amidst children and teenagers to protect them against any risky behavior. The Ministry's strategies to this end are as follows:

- training
- awareness and education
- advocacy and lobbying¹⁰

The Ministry prepared a plan of action on the scope of work at the Lebanese Prisons between 2013 and 2014 especially for imprisoned women and newborn children. A comprehensive plan of action for the marginalized suffering from stigma and discrimination including the disabled was prepared. The most important effort is put by MoSA's Higher Council of Childhood entrusted with the following:

- Preparing programs on raising awareness about reproductive health and integrating them with the National Strategy for the Health of the Child with reference to the National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC)
- Incepting a national plan of action on combating trafficking in children and sexual abuse
- Preparing a national strategy on combating child marriages
- Preparing a national strategy on the development of early childhood including a section for children in a state of emergency to include refugee children in particular from Syria, children with disabilities and ones living with HIV.

The NCLW is raising awareness on reproductive health. Its projects included female reproductive health in a national ten-year strategy for women -2011 2021. Awareness is however limited to reproductive health and does not encompass sexual and reproductive rights.

The Plans of Action are not clear in establishing sexual and reproductive rights:

These plans are related to protecting dignity, prohibiting torture and inhuman or degrading practices. These plans display the MoJ strategy (Prisons' Department) on improving the conditions in prisons.

10- Website of MoSA: <http://www.socialaffairs.gov.lb/MSASubPage.aspx?parm=117>

Based on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the conditions of prisons in Lebanon vary between bad, very bad and inhuman. Staying at one of the Lebanese prisons is akin of torture or inhuman and degrading treatment.

The National Strategy on the Prevention against Torture failed to recognize fully the sexual and reproductive rights or underlying the interest in the physical and mental health in prisons. The State has to build prisons for women in line with the modern standard and shall be equipped with the medical utilities and devices necessary to take care of female prisoners, before and after delivery while enabling them to nurse their infants inside prisons until at least the age of two.

On October 2016, the Lebanese Parliament enacted the law on the establishment of the "National Human Rights Institution" which includes a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), an independent body mandated to investigate in the use of torture and abuse. However, this mechanism does not involve the protection of persons based on their sexual orientation. The law on the establishment of the NHRI does not include one of the components of sexual rights. "The State party should prohibit anal searches or tests for men suspected of homosexuality and ensure that body searches are conducted only in exceptional cases and by the least intrusive means possible, with full respect for the dignity of the person"¹¹.

11- Committee against Torture, Concluding observations on the initial report of Lebanon, May 30, 2017, Paragraph 15 c. CAT/C/LBN/CO/1.



Plans failing to Recognize Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Plans established by some ministries however were found incomplete; namely plans by MEHE, MoJ, the Office of the Minister of Women Affairs (OMSWA), the Ministry of Information, MoL, Mol, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

a- Office of the Minister of Women Affairs (OMSWA)

A National Strategy is based on International Conventions revolving around 12 topics including sexual and reproductive health. This strategy is not implemented yet since the Ministry is very recent and its structure remains incomplete.

b- Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)

The Ministry has not so far integrated sexual and reproductive rights in the school curriculum. Sexual education has not yet been integrated in the national educational system and remains a shy activity in public schools.

c- Ministry of Justice

The Ministry does not have any strategy strictly related to sexual and reproductive rights. Its work is strictly related to examining some draft laws related to these rights.

d- Ministry of Information

There is no strategy on raising awareness on sexual and reproductive rights or respecting human rights principles and conventions.

e- Ministry of Labor

Though this ministry is entrusted with organizing and protecting the rights of working women especially foreigners, the Lebanese Labor Code does not have any reference to sexual violence against working women. There is no strategy on the protection of the sexual and reproductive rights of migrant workers including domestic workers. The contract with migrant workers does not cover reproductive health and is limited to health insurance and AIDS screening.

f- Ministry of Youth and Sports

The Ministry's strategy for 2020-2010 has nothing even remotely related to sexual and reproductive rights. It considers this subject to be related to the plans and activities of other ministries namely the Ministry of Health.

Third Axis: Obstacles and Challenges to the work of Ministries and National Institutions

The obstacles and challenges may be summarized as follows:

- the link between sexual and reproductive rights on one hand and the moral, social and religious system on the other hand
- the laws incriminating some of the practices related to sexual and reproductive rights
- the lack and absence of information related to these rights in educational, health and media institutions in particular.

Fourth Axis: The Duplication in the Strategies and Activities of the Ministries


Most of the ministries and public institutions seek cooperation, coordination and networking in the matters of human rights. It is crucial to frame these rights in the policies, programs and activities hence, developing a national framework for sexual and reproductive rights.

CSOs are working mainly to defend sexual and reproductive health or offering the relevant services. CSOs are the proper space to define these rights, raise awareness and influence or condemn the relevant policies. CSOs are faced with many challenges when dealing with government and national institutions. In fact, sexual and reproductive rights are very sensitive and require a social, legal and regulatory framework.

Axis One: CSOs' Approaches

There is not one approach in the work of CSOs that would enhance and uphold sexual and reproductive rights. The approach changes according to the intervention, vision, message and goals of every organization. Approaches vary between awareness raising campaigns and lobbying:

- first: to identify sexual and reproductive rights and their relation to other rights and to the protection of individuals

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- second: to monitor the violations of these rights while reminding the State of its international commitments

Definition of the Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The answers of CSOs during FGDs, II and individual surveys highlight the relation between sexual and reproductive rights on one hand and human rights on the other hand. However, the answers did not discuss or analyze the relation in details nor did it specify any of the relevant rights. It was clear that traditional standard concepts, terms and approaches lacked a rights-based approach. The only exceptions were the LGBTIQ organizations. In fact, sexual and reproductive rights were meant as female rights and were never discussed in their relation to men or for persons with alternative sexual orientation or gender identity.

Limitations to the Definition of Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The CSOs lack of understanding of the sexual and reproductive rights, in terms of their link to the Human rights values and principles have failed to embrace basic human rights such as:

- comprehensiveness
- participation
- self determination
- disconnection from violence, discrimination in sexual and reproductive rights
- personal physical freedom, sexual orientation or self-identified gender identity
- absence of a vision to work on abortion
- incapacity to recruit migrant workers and provide sexual and reproductive rights to them or encouraging them to request services
- lack of strategies on targeting persons with disabilities

Axis 2: CSOs in Sexual and Reproductive Rights

CSOs offer sexual and reproductive services based on some criteria namely:

- secrecy
- non stigmatization
- equality

Some CSOs involve all social categories including men in the gender equality programs and service provision; however, they do not discuss some of the key issues impacting them such as forced anal tests. Interviews have shown that advocacy campaigns were inexistent and that campaigns exclude refugees, migrant workers or the LGBTIQ community.


Axis 3: Analyzing the Context of Organizations in Securing Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The SWOT analysis discussed:

- the internal factors affecting the role of organizations and associations including
 - the strengths and weaknesses in the relations between associations, the State and the Community
 - the strengths and weaknesses on the level of programs and services
- the external factors (opportunities and threats) affecting the role of organizations and associations:
 - opportunities made available by the State to organizations
 - challenges that the State faces
 - opportunities in the relationship with the community and duty bearers

The main challenges before civil organizations:

- insufficient financial resources
- lack of projects' sustainability

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- social perceptions restricting disclosure or the capacity to work overtly on sexual and reproductive rights
 - failed access to all communities
 - failed coordination and networking between organizations
 - failed coordination with the government bodies in several matters
 - absence of a clear coordination working paper between ministries and organizations
 - failed public commitment to international conventions
 - lack of security and economic stability

— The main strengths of these organizations:

- the presence of many operations centers and services in many regions
- the presence of specialized staff inside many organizations
- the presence of local expertise in advocacy and capacity to influence legislations and policies led by some organizations.

Part IV :

People's assessment of their sexual and reproductive rights in Lebanon

Despite the services offered by ministries, public institutions and CSOs, responding to the needs of stakeholders, they were lacking in terms of not including the different populations noting that services were unaffordable to many. In this section we overview the ideas of the stakeholders to examine the extent to which they are aware of and assess sexual and reproductive rights using two case studies of the most vulnerable categories:


- Migrant workers and refugees in Lebanon
- LBGTIQ Community

Part V :

Recommendations

.....[International Law](#)

- Ratifying the international conventions on sexual and reproductive rights and integrating them in the national legislations in line with the preamble of the Lebanese Constitution, namely:
 - The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 - The Convention relating to the Status of the Refugees
 - The ILO Convention No 97 on Migrant Workers
 - The Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
 - The Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, in line with the preamble of the Constitution and Lebanon's ratification of the Conventions

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- Ratifying the optional protocols to international conventions such as the CRC, CEDAW, ICCPR and ICESCR.
 - Ratifying conventions without any reservations especially that these affect the spirit and content of the conventions and lifting any reservation to the CEDAW namely Article 16.

.....National Legislations

- Aligning national legislations with international texts and relevant conventions especially the Civil Status Laws, and conducting a full scan of the laws and legislations on sexual and reproductive rights while including all age categories namely children and the elderly. The Lebanese legislator in case of any conflict between international conventions and positive laws including the civil status laws, gave precedence to international conventions over national legislation.
- Amending and developing the following laws:
 - Civil Status Law
 - Law on Youth
 - Law on Domestic Violence: though it includes marital violence, nevertheless Articles 503 and 504 of the Criminal Law call for amendment and removal of the wording “non wife”. Article -7-3a on marital rights, Articles 505 and 518 on authorizing the marriage of children must be amended and the articles on incriminating adultery and abortion should be canceled (cancelation of the criminal punishment). Article 534 incriminating all “acts against nature” must be abolished and the Law on Social Security (Articles 46 ,16 ,14 and 47) should be amended.
 - Article 2 of the Code on Civil Procedures should be embedded in the Lebanese Constitution.
- Enacting a harmonized civil status law and determining the minimum age for marriage as per the UNCRC and enacting a law prohibiting sexual harassment inside and outside the workplace and abolishing the “sponsorship” system which is one root cause for domestic workers’ vulnerability to trafficking.
- Allow abortion at least in the cases where pregnancy threatens the life and health of the mother and in the cases of rape, incest and fetal malformation.

- Enacting laws from a human rights perspective and in respect of the principles of equality, nondiscrimination and comprehensiveness.
- Including nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, public opinion, national origins, social origins in the national legislations and aligning with the new tendencies that provides for additional grounds namely age, disability, family responsibilities, language, sexual orientation and medical condition.

.....Policies:

Align national measures and procedures with international texts and conventions. Implement the recommendations and comments of the treaty bodies regarding Lebanon's periodic reports as well as the general and public recommendations.

- Devising a clear national strategy that is inclusive of sexual and reproductive rights in Lebanon, enabling all categories to enjoy these rights; integrating a rights-based approach in the work plans of the relevant ministries and CSOs; providing the required medical care, raising awareness, empowering persons and providing means for treatment and prevention, offering sufficient subsidies in the budgeted national working plans so that programs are periodically overviewed using a participatory and transparent process. The strategy must include:
 - sectorial working plans on the national level for every ministry and institution and on the local level with municipalities, and unions of municipalities. These plans should specify timeframes and roles and build indicators and mechanisms of assessment, monitoring and accountability that are related to human rights norms and values; budgets have to be allocated to these plans and periodic meetings with donors will be held to ensure implementation of the national strategy.
 - a clear coordination mechanism between the different ministries and institutions to ensure the implementation of a national strategy free from any administrative or regulatory obstacles; a consultancy protocol for sexual and reproductive rights.
 - a media plan of action pinpointing the role of the media in raising awareness, and offering knowledge and assistance in achieving the goals of the strategy.



- measures that monitor the performance of the private sector to offer medical care and end medically unjustified C-sections.

- Comprising the weak and vulnerable categories in sexual and reproductive rights: families living in poverty, refugees, workers coming from South and South-East Asia, Western African, stateless children, refugee and asylum seekers children, children born of migrant workers, children who are victims of trafficking, children with disabilities, and others living in a precarious social and legal condition. Ensuring the protection for Syrian refugees in Lebanon especially those who are at risk of trafficking, sexual abuse and forced labor,

- Improving the conditions of prisons and detention centers to accommodate sexual tendencies taking into account the specificities of “gender identity”.

- Integrating sexual and reproductive health and STIs in school programs; working with parents especially parents’ committees at schools to develop and activate the programs and activities on sexual and reproductive rights.

- Working with the local community namely municipalities in the field of prevention by raising awareness and knowledge in the field of sexual and reproductive rights.

- Ensuring that the NHRI mandate includes receiving individual complains about the violation of sexual and reproductive rights in Lebanon.

.....Programs:

- Offering the medical personnel giving consultancy on sexual and reproductive rights a training by specialized trainers and enabling the ministries’ personnel to better implement the national strategy while determining the medical care that has to be awarded to the victims of rape, the measures applicable to the AIDS patients and how not to discriminate against persons with alternative sexual orientations.

- Offering more medical services especially in the field of sexual and reproductive rights in every region according to its size and demographic density and providing the services via government institutions i.e. the centers of the National network for primary health care; focusing on the community and public centers; rehabilitating the dispensaries of the MoH and the centers for development services, the centers of the organizations working with MoSA to improve the quality, quantity and availability of efficient sexual

and reproductive rights while increasing a access to safe abortion and post abortion care services.

- Improving the mobile clinics offering sexual and reproductive services, expanding their geographic coverage and target population to include the most vulnerable categories.

- Preparing training and guidance material on sexual and reproductive rights, developing training units at the coordination mechanism between the different ministries to train as many public servants as possible.

- Providing protection to women in jail, ensuring the prisoners' access to medication, guaranteeing sexual freedom and sexual and reproductive rights to women in general, and female prisoners in particular.

- Increasing the role of CSOs by means of a participatory strategy on sexual and reproductive rights:

- training the enforcement agencies on the implementation of the law and the holding of advocacy campaigns

- building the capacities of CSOs staff and improving their understanding of the legal international context with regards to sexual and reproductive rights

- using international protection mechanisms

- reinforcing the role of the civil society in the field of advocacy and the lobbying for sexual and reproductive rights

- monitoring the violation of sexual and reproductive rights and documenting the same in reports and complaint mechanisms

- preparing a survey map with the activities and services of organizations that defend sexual and reproductive rights

- expanding the platform of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection (CP) officers and improving the working group prototype to help ensure constant coordination and the establishment of a national referral mechanism.