

MoM-Central MHPSS TF

Date	10 th of July 2018	Venue	WHO Conference Room (-1)
Time	14:00 to 15:00	Minutes prepared by	Alain Gebrayel (MOPH-NMHP)

Organizations attending.	Abaad, Agence Francaise du Development, Caritas Lebanon, Embrace, Handicap International, IDRAAC, International Rescue Committee, International Organisation for Migration, Lebanese Red Cross, Medecins Du Monde, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Ministry of Public Health, Relief International, Restart Centre, UNHCR, UNRWA, World Health Organization.
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Agenda

1. **Presentation of the legal framework for mental health in Lebanon**
2. **Presentation of the first report of the national observatory on drugs and drug addiction 2017 and the map of substance use services.**
3. **Updates and discussions on gaps and challenges faced in MHPSS work by actors in the South**
4. **General updates**

Discussion	Action / Decision / Suggestion
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1. Presentation of the legal framework for mental health in Lebanon

<p>➤ The MOPH-National Mental Health Programme gave a presentation on the current legislation related to mental health in place in Lebanon and on the main features of the new mental health Law that is in discussion in parliamentary committees.</p> <p>Questions from participants and answers included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Question 1: does the new law regard children or individuals trying to forge signatures of people suffering from mental illness. ➤ Question 2: how will the mechanism work for transporting persons in a psychiatric emergency? ➤ Question 4: Who will the members of the committee of each hospital responsible for following-up on hospitalization procedures be? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Answer 1: The new law is related to the protection of the rights of persons with mental disorders, including ensuring the availability of community-based mental health care and regulating forced hospitalization. ➤ Answer 2: MOPH has started its coordination with key stakeholders (such as the LRC) regarding the transportation
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mechanism. It is part of the MHPSS task force action plan, but pending funding to be secured.

- Answer 3: Members will include, among others, persons with lived experience with mental illness, MHPSS professionals, social workers, ethical committee members, and family members.

2. Presentation of the first report of the national observatory on drugs and drug addiction 2017 and the map of substance use services.

In line with the implementation of strategic objectives in the “Inter-ministerial Substance Use Response Strategy for Lebanon 2016-2021”, the Ministry of Public Health has launched two key documents in the context of the national campaign 2018 to raise awareness against harmful drug use:

- 1. A map of substance use response services available in the country**
- 2. The first annual report of the National Observatory on Drugs and Drug Addiction (NODDA).**

> **The NODDA** was launched by the Ministry of Public Health in 2016 in line with the implementation of a strategic objective of the “Inter-ministerial Substance Use Response Strategy for Lebanon 2016-2021”. The NODDA plays a key role in collecting, analyzing and generating evidence from national databases that can inform policy and service development (**Webpage of NODDA: [Link](#)**)

1. The first report of the NODDA on the drug situation in Lebanon was launched in the context of the national campaign to raise awareness on harmful drug use. The report focuses on drug prevalence, market, policy, treatment and prevention in Lebanon. The reporting period extends between 2000 and 2016 inclusive.

To view the report, see **links** below:

English:

http://www.moph.gov.lb/userfiles/files/HealthCareSystem/Narcotics/NODDA_2017_english.pdf

Arabic:

http://www.moph.gov.lb/userfiles/files/HealthCareSystem/Narcotics/NODDA_2017_arabic.pdf

2. The National Mental Health Programme at MOPH launched the first **mapping of substance use treatment, harm reduction and rehabilitation services**. This is a first version, an updated one with information from additional actors will be subsequently shared. The mapping is available on the following link:
<https://www.moph.gov.lb/userfiles/files/Programs%26Projects/MentalHealthProgram/Map%20of%20substance%20use%20and%20rehabilitation%20services-%20Lebanon.pdf> (Hard copies are available at the Ministry).

Other updates regarding the implementation of the “Inter-ministerial Substance Use Response Strategy for Lebanon 2016-2021” were provided as well. These include:

- Drug law revision started to align with public health and human rights principles and international conventions
- Action plans under development to integrate MH and SU in schools and in social protection programming) in collaboration with MOSA and MEHE.
- List and guide for evidence-based community-based prevention interventions under development
- Newly opened centre in RHUH for harm reduction, treatment and outpatient rehabilitation (Skoun)
- Substance use brief interventions will be provided among packages covered for free in PHCCs part of the Emergency Primary healthcare Restoration Project of the MOPH
- Needs assessment for women with substance use disorders under preparation

3. Discussion of challenges/updates

- Caritas: is starting a new project in South and will be posting positions online soon.
- UNHCR: SOPs have changed for secondary care but still are the same for mental health.
- Embrace Lifeline for suicide prevention: Expanding services but trying to find funding and grants. Struggling to become a 24/7 service because there is not enough funding. The hotline number for suicide prevention is 1564.
- Lebanese Red Cross: Referral system to the Lebanese Red Cross will be shared with all TF members. LRC is trying to link 140 to 1564 (Embrace lifeline).
- IDRAAC: Completed two projects. Psychiatric services in Ashrafieh clinic are being provided with low fees.

- **Actors to connect with MOPH or directly with Embrace if there is available funding to support the hotline because this is a top priority for Lebanon.**
- **Embrace to share the call for applications to become a volunteer at the Embrace Lifeline and training dates with all actors through the**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Relief International: psychotherapy and psychosocial support in Akkar. They provide transportation for severe cases. They are currently supporting two centers (Al Amal and Al Abrar). ➤ International Rescue Committee: MH assessment done in North Bekaa. It will be shared as soon as it is out with all task force members. ➤ ABAAD: In collaboration with MOPH-National Mental Health Programme, and in line with the MHPSS TF action plan for 2018, a self-care curriculum is currently under finalization and will be disseminated. ➤ Medecins du Monde: providing services in RHUH Community mental health centre. They are no longer providing services in Zahle SDC. ➤ Makhzoumi: still have the same services. Currently working on their outreach services. They also transport severe mental health cases. 	<p>MHPSS task force.</p>
<p>4. General Updates</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Answers to clarifying questions regarding the law related to the regulation of Psychologist profession: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the law about? In 2017 the law passed aiming to regulate the profession of clinical and non-clinical psychology in Lebanon to protect persons who are reaching these services, psychologists and the profession itself. As per this law, psychologists should have a license to practice from the MOPH, which is obtained after having earned a colloquium. Two colloquiums have been done since last year, the next is in October 2018. - Are non-Lebanese allowed to practice based on the law? The law applies to Lebanese only, as such non-Lebanese cannot practice (Article 3). - What are the measures that will be taken for enforcing the law? As outlined in article 9 of the law, persons who practice the profession of clinical or non-clinical psychologist (educational) without a license from the Ministry of Public Health will be subject to imprisonment and will have to pay a fine. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kind reminder that the reporting period on the monthly MHPSS indicators is from the 1st to 15th of every month for the data forms of the previous month. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 4Ws online platform to be introduced started next month to actors to prepare for launching in September. 	
<p>Next meeting: Tuesday 14th of August, WHO Conference Room (-1)</p>	