

MoM-South MHPSS TF

Date	3 rd of July 2018	Venue	LWAH, Sarafand
Time	10:00 to 11:30	Minutes prepared by	Alain Gebrayel

Organizations attending.	Al Hayaa el Islamiya (Islamic Health Society), Beit Atfal Assoumoud, Himaya, Imam Sadr Foundation, Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped, Ministry of Public Health, Nabaa', Terre Des Hommes-Lausanne, UNICEF, UNHCR
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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

- The mental health law and human rights coordinator in 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.
- Questions from participants and answer included:
 1. Question: if someone is unaware of their surroundings and are causing harm to themselves/others (and if no caregiver can sign on behalf of them) can they be admitted to any hospital.
 Answer: If at risk of harming others, they can be admitted if somebody informs the General Attorney and an order is issued for hospitalization. If risk of harming oneself, this can be one of the reasons to proceed with non-consented admission especially in the presence of a mental disorders, but this needs to be assessed by a psychiatrist. The mechanism and procedures for these specific cases of admission without consent are developed in the new law proposal and will be established accordingly.
 2. Question: will MOPH be covering the cost of non-consented admission for psychiatric cases?

Answer: MOPH will cover most probably the costs for Lebanese. At the time being, in terms of coverage, MOPH covers psychiatric hospitalization for the uninsured Lebanese. Within the new revision of the law, the MOPH will be involved as a regulating body with the judicial system in the management of involuntary hospitalisation. Right now there is no mechanism in place for that.

3. Question: if someone is presented with a person in an acute psychiatric condition and unable to make decisions for themselves who needs hospitalization, what is to be done?

Answer: Psychiatrist can request the hospitalization of this person. NGO has to link the person to the psychiatrist.

4. Question: does the drug law apply to minors?

Answer: yes it applies to all the people living 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.

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/NO_DDA_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

- The “Mariam” game application was said to be troublesome in the South. Some actors reported a high number of referrals they are receiving regarding this game. Mutilation is very common among the children referred.
- Beit Atfal Assoumoud NGO shared that they are implementing advocacy and awareness-raising activities.

4. General Updates

- Actors to kindly send the indicators report before the 15th of July
- MOPH to send out the 4Ws. Actors to kindly update their respective 4Ws.

Next meeting: Tuesday 7th of August, Imam Sadr Foundation, Tyr

