

MoM-Bekaa MHPSS TF

Date	24 July 2018	Venue	UNHCR Zahleh
Time	12:00am to 1:30pm	Minutes prepared by	Nour Kik (MOPH-NMHP)
Organizations attending.	Fundacion Promocion Social, International Committee of the Red Cross, Ministry of Public Health, UNHCR		

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 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 answers included:

➤ Question 1: What should be done if persons do not have family members who can sign the admission papers?

➤ Answer 1: The case can be raised to the Public Prosecution (النيابة العامة) (i.e. public prosecutor- مدعي عام) which can release a judicial decision for hospitalization (قرار قضائي). UNHCR highlighted that for Syrians displaced, they are contacting the Ministry of Social Affairs for signing admission.

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

- Medair: Providing psychosocial support in Marh. They cover transportation fees from around Marj and Bar Elias.
- Humedica: Operating in Informal Settlements. Considering supporting a psychiatrist in MDM.
- Solidarity: Interested in receiving capacity-building for staff on identification of mental health cases and referral.
- MTI: Providing Psychosocial support and awareness sessions on mental health.
- International Committee of the Red Cross: Mental health services in Bar Elias are ending. All cases were referred to Medecins Du Monde or Fundacion Promocion Social. MHPSS services will be transferred to Aarsal.
- Magna: Providing awareness sessions
- International Medical Corps: challenges related to Lebanese patients in securing the 10% hospitalization coverage fee.

- As part of the MHPSS TF 2018 Action plan implementation, capacity-building for protection actors on identification of mental disorders and safe referral will be conducted in Quarter 4 of 2018. Solidarity staff would be able to apply to participate.

➤ Areas of gap of mental health services highlighted by participants include: Terbol and Hermel/Kaa.

4. General Updates

➤ Kind reminder to share monthly report on MHPSS indicators. Reporting period on monthly indicators if from the 1st to the 15th of every month for data of previous month.

Next meeting: Tuesday 28th of August, WHO Conference Room (-1) at 12pm