

MoM-North MHPSS TF

Date	4 th of July 2018	Venue	Restart Center
Time	14:00 to 15:30	Minutes prepared by	Alain Gebrayel (MOPH-NMHP)
Organizations attending.	International committee of the Red Cross, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Ministry of Public Health, Restart Center, UNCHR		

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
1. Presentation of the legal framework for mental health in Lebanon	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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 answers included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some actors reported that admission of persons in acute psychiatric condition (with no caregivers to sign on behalf of them) to hospitals for stabilization is becoming a hassle because hospitals are requiring signature and NGOs are having to sign on behalf of the person and take responsibility. Psychiatrists are not always available to refer the patients. ➤ Restart is coordinating with NPM for the convention against torture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MOPH is working on the crisis response protocols and will be disseminating the protocols as soon as they're out. ➤ The coordination of the NPM and the MOPH committee might be valuable if relevant.

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

3. 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

- Admission form of The Cross hospital implicates the NGO to whatever happens to service users admitted on whose behalf the NGO signs the form (i.e. specifically cases where the person has no family members who can sign).
- No services targeting substance use in North.
- MSF reported that a Lebanese patient could not afford psychiatric admission but TDH and Dar Alsalam were the ones who took this on and provided the costs.
- Capacity of hospitals to treat psychiatric patients is not very adequate. Psychiatric patient referred from Restart for 15 days to Tripoli Public Hospital was discharged after 5 days.

- The lack of substance use response services in governorates outside Beirut-Mount-Lebanon is an acknowledged gap and addressing in is part of the Inter-Ministerial Substance Use Response Strategy for Lebanon 2016-2020. Awaiting to ensure funding to be able to develop services in the North.

4. General Updates

- Actors to share the MHPSS monthly indicators report for the month of June before the 15th of July.
- MOPH to send out the 4Ws for updating. Every actor tokindly update theirrespective 4Ws.

Next meeting: (1st of August, Restart Center)