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Maturity Model Desk Review, Assessment and Action Planning

COUNTRY: LEBANON

Development of maturity model and assessment tools for harmful practices policies

Maturity Model Desk Review, Assessment and Action Planning

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Acknowledgment

List of acronyms

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEFM Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM)
CP Child Protection
CRC Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO Civil Society Organization
SGBV Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
GPECM Global Programme to End Child Marriage
JPFGM Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation
MOSA Ministry of Social Affairs
NCLW National Commission for Lebanese Women
NGO Non-Governmental Organization
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

Contents

I. Background

Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) is a global issue affecting many adolescent girls around the world, including Lebanon. According to a 2016 UNICEF report, 6 per cent of women between the ages of 20–24 years in Lebanon married before they were 18 years of age.[1] 1 The highest prevalence rate was among the Syrian cohort at 27 per cent, followed by 13 per cent for Palestinian women refugees from Syria (PRS) and 4 per cent for Palestinian Refugee women in Lebanon (PRL).[2] 2 Vast regional discrepancies exist among Lebanese women, with an overall marriage rate of 4 per cent among Lebanese women aged15–19 years. [3]

Lebanon is currently strained by several intertwined crises which have worsened some of the key risk factors associated with CEFM, ranging from lack of employment opportunities and the financial burdens of supporting a household, to lack of access to basic needs and services.[4] In fact, 82 per cent of Lebanon's residents currently live-in multidimensional poverty,[5] and 15 per cent of children were pulled out of schools in 2021 alone.[6] Among Syrian refugees, 80 per cent of young women aged 15–24 years are not in education, employment, or training.[7] At a national level, a slight decrease, from 24 per cent to 20 per cent, in child marriage among Syrian refugees has been noticed between 2020 and 2021. [8]

Purpose

This document aims to accelerate change to achieve the 2030 elimination of harmful practices Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A draft maturity model or framework for harmful practices with articulated benchmarks has been developed and populated for review and feedback from country-level stakeholders. The model aims to provide an integrated strategy on measuring processes, systems and services and information based on a Public Policy Management approach.[9] This framework is intended to complement and augment the Global Programme to End Child Marriage (GPECM) framework and the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (GPECM). Based on the draft maturity model and assessment tools, rapid assessments were conducted in 12 countries[10] to measure the level of maturity of their processes, systems and services to eliminate harmful practices. Draft Action Plans were developed based on identified actions (short, medium and long term), to inform existing national action plans and advocacy strategies. It is against this background that a desk review was conducted, the draft maturity model was completed and prototyped, and the draft findings of this country-level report are shared. This reflects the inception stage of sensitizing country-level stakeholders on the potential utility of a comparable maturity model to accelerate action for change across 12 countries.

II. Methodology

The desk review comprises core documents shared by the country including various documents such as laws, policies, strategies, guidance and standards, monitoring and evaluation reports which touch on the topic of harmful practices. Furthermore, competency frameworks from other countries are included to provide insight into the format, methodology and content of harmful practices frameworks that have been developed in other contexts. The findings of the review will be included in an Appendix to complement the findings of this desk review and will help to inform the strengths and gaps in harmful practices programming.

The desk review was completed by using several key questions or 'lenses' defined by the six operational/functions areas and sub-domains of the draft maturity model on harmful practices. The questions posed to answer these goals include the following:

- 1. What is the effectiveness of government structures, including coordination across government departments, between centralization levels, and between formal and informal actors?

- 2. What is the effectiveness of the legal and regulatory framework, as well as specific policies related to prevention and elimination of harmful practices?

- 3. What is the extent to which key stakeholders, including children and women, are involved in planning interventions for the prevention and response to harmful practices?

- 4. What are the sources, adequacy and availability of funds and human resources to support elimination of harmful practices?

- 5. What is the availability and access to prevention and response services for women and children most-at-risk of harmful practices?

- 6. What is the effectiveness of data collection and monitoring and evaluation systems, whether it is being done nationally into the situation for children and women at risk of harmful practices, and into programmes addressing their needs?

III. Key findings

The key findings of the desk review and the review of the draft completed maturity model are organized according to the above six areas, which relate to the model's intermediate outcome areas. Where information was limited or gaps were identified, this is mentioned. Each of the six areas comprises a number of sub-domains. For example, the governance and coordination structures area includes three sub-domains: political commitment, coordination structures, and national action plans. Each one is rated in the maturity model from 1 to 4.

The past few years have seen some notable progress towards preventing and responding to CEFM in Lebanon. This report expands on these efforts at different levels: policy and legislative framework; services; social norms and behaviour; evidence and data. It also explores areas of improvement that different parties have started to consider as well as the remaining gaps and challenges faced in the Lebanese context.

1. Weak - Building	2. Average – Enhancing	3. Good –Integrating	4. Excellent – Mature

Governance and coordination structures

Measurement standard for mature rating: The country has strong political commitment to eliminate harmful practices with high level declaration spelling out its commitments; there is a national multi-sectoral coordination structure in place with an institutionally mandated lead, which meets routinely, and there is a Plan of Action (NPA) with clearly defined targets aligned to national statistics frameworks.

A1 Political commitment: There has been no political statement or declaration to support response to ending child marriage. Lebanon has signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and it has not made reservations to the provisions regarding the age of marriage. However, in Lebanon, the minimum age of marriage still varies between religious communities; and all religious sects allow marriage for girls under the age of 18 years. A governmental official co-chairs the Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) Task Force in Lebanon; however, this person doesn't have authority to hold other units and departments accountable within the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA). Most of the funding to end child marriage is supported by donors from the international community through funding to local Civil Society Organizations (CSO).

A2 Coordination structures: The Higher Council for Childhood is linked to MOSA and is in charge of childhood issues in general. The National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) is also in charge of women and adolescent girls' issues. There is a well-established coordination structure for child protection (CP) and Gender-based Violence (GBV) at the national and field levels, and these two working groups usually discuss issues related to child marriage. The CP working group is led by UNICEF and co-lead by MOSA. The SGBV Task Force is led by UNFPA and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and co-led by MOSA. The CP/GBV coordination structures at local level are functional; however, they're led by UNICEF for CP and UNHCR for GBV. There is no real presence of Governmental entities in these coordination forums, and the services provided by Government for child marriage cases are usually fragmented with no real connection between ministries at the field level. The coordination structures are linked to the emergency response to the Syrian crisis, but with no real presence from concerned ministries coordination is weak for robust prevention and response to child marriage by the Government.

A3 National Plan of Action: The National Action Plan to Prevent and Mitigate Child Marriage in Lebanon (NAPPCM 2020–2025) prepared by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) with technical support from UNICEF, is a multi-sectoral strategy that includes prevention and mitigation interventions with the aim to achieve a 60 per cent reduction in child marriage in Lebanon by 2025. However, it is still not fully endorsed by MOSA and not officially launched. The action plan provides clear guidance to ministries and departments on their role to prevent and respond to child marriage; the plan also articulates the roles of non-governmental organizations (NGO)/CSOs and is comprehensive. The plan is survivor-centered, and promotes the needs, wishes and rights of survivors.

Policy and legislative framework

Measurement standard for mature rating: There are enacted laws and policies which specifically protect women and girls, including the most-at-risk from harmful practices. These are operationalized through implementing mechanisms and enforcement measures at national and sub-national levels, and routine monitoring and review mechanisms are in place to ensure these laws are in line with international human rights standards.

B1 Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices: Lebanon ratified the CRC in 1991 without reservations, and the CEDAW in 1997. [11] While CRC broadly guarantees children's rights and their protection from all harm, CEDAW explicitly states that, "the betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory". In addition, the CRC committee's concluding observations in 2017 reiterated the need for Lebanon to adopt expeditiously legislation setting 18 years as the minimum age for marriage for girls and boys, and to engage with the religious authorities to prohibit child marriages. Although Lebanon recognizes the primacy of international law in its Constitution and is bound by the principles of both conventions, the Lebanese national law still deals with CEFM according to the religious court rules, where each sect refers to its own religious law for the legal age of marriage. Since 2014, three law proposals have been presented to Parliament in an effort to mitigate CEFM by specifying a unified minimum age of marriage across sects, but they were met with fierce opposition. Raising the minimum age of marriage is a controversial issue in Lebanon due to the relegation of family and personal status laws to the realm of religious courts.[12] Nonetheless, the proposal is still on the table and was last discussed by the Women and Children Parliamentary Committee in June 2021. In parallel, the Supreme Islamic Sharia Council has raised the minimum age of marriage for the Sunni community to age 18 years, while keeping certain exceptions for girls and boys between the ages of 15 and 18 years, whereby a religious court may grant permission for their marriage.[13] Other sects have also unofficially expressed their readiness to discuss the matter, although no other decision has materialized to date. There's currently a revision of the Law 422/2002 to consider child marriage as a situation that puts the child at risk, and which must be addressed to protect the best interest of the child, noting that Article 25 of the law gave the juvenile justice system responsibility for the protection of children at risk. This law also expanded the authority of the juvenile justice system from a body that looks into crimes committed by children and turned it into an authority entrusted with the protection of children who are facing a particular risk, irrespective of whether or not they have committed any crime. Law 422/2002 did not distinctly address female juveniles or discuss the specific risks they face due to gender discrimination and the approach followed is based on separating criminal cases from family or personal status cases. Today, the discussion on the role of the juvenile justice system in addressing one of the biggest risks facing juveniles –child marriage – is more important than ever, and several Juvenile Judges are eager to play a role in addressing this harmful practice. Based on available international and national legal tools, and without making any legislative amendments in the current period, there are two main pillars which the juvenile justice system is based on, in regard to child marriage. The National Child Marriage action plan was finalized but has not been officially launched yet.

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Governance & Coordination	2,1	A1: Political commitment	1,3
		A2: Coordination structures	2,8
		A3: National Action Plans	2,2

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Policy and Legislation	1,3	B1: Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices	1,5

Engagement and participation

Measurement standard for mature rating: There is an independent complaints mechanism that accepts complaints by or on behalf of women refused or receiving harmful practices services which replies within a stipulated timeframe; civil society are extensively engaged in strengthening political commitment, planning and budgeting processes, and monitoring and reporting around harmful practices; there are engagement forums for women, youth and children with Government support, and there are community-based protection mechanisms in place also engaging with women and children. The effectiveness of these mechanisms is monitored through fully functional accountability mechanisms.

C1 Independent complaint mechanism: Children and women subject to violence can report child abuse and violence against women incidents to local GBV service providers across Lebanon; an updated child protection/GBV referral pathway is available.

C2 Civil society engagement, including women and children: Civil society actors are very active in Lebanon and they continue prioritizing issues of adolescent girls at the national and field levels. Child marriage is discussed within the National and field SGBV Task Force and the Child Protection Working Group meeting; the task force meeting takes place monthly and is co-led by MOSA. CSOs work with leaders to strengthen their commitment in addressing issues related to GBV and child marriage, and some political parties have become active in this regard. However, there is significant resistance from some religious groups. CSOs were also involved in the development and monitoring of the 1325 child marriage action plan, which is still to be launched. Child protection and GBV actors have established community-based groups and structures in the field and meet with them on a regular basis; these groups raise concerns and issues that children, especially adolescent girls and women, are facing within their communities and suggested actions that can reduce the risks to children, including adolescent girls, and women.

C3 Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention: UNICEF worked with KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation on a child protection policy for the media, but the policy wasn't launched officially and is planned for 2023. There are community-based mechanisms in place, but they are predominantly led and supported by NGOs.

Financing and human resources

Measurement standard for mature rating: Adequate financial resources have been allocated by government and partners, with government meeting the majority of the costs; the funding is realized on time and is accessible to the relevant sectoral Ministry(s), with regular reviews of allocation taking place. Routine capacity-building is provided to key stakeholders with supportive supervision services on harmful practices and with significant sustained coverage.

D1 Financing of harmful practices services: Given the political and financial difficulties and state failure in Lebanon, there are no budgetary commitments to implement relevant programmes to address harmful practices. The MOSA declined to finalize the budget exercise for the National Child Marriage Action Plan. The available prevention and response services are mostly funded by the international community. There is no political commitment in some ministries to fund child marriage programmes.

D2 National budget establishment: There is no allocated national budget to respond to harmful practices. MOSA budget is allocated to NGOs providing services which are not aligned to the standards. Some ministries showed higher commitment compared to others to work on harmful practices issues, especially the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and the National Commission for Lebanese Women.

D3 National budget execution: There is no information on whether planned budgets are reliably executed.

D4 National budget amount: Government finances some services but at a relatively small scale.

D5 National budget monitoring and review: There are no known efforts to track Government funding for harmful practices and, if it exists, it is ad hoc in nature.

D6 Human resources: UNICEF and other actors have been extensively investing in training staff on child marriage prevention and response with more than 5,000. UNICEF has been investing a lot in building the capacities of health care professionals, education counsellors, social workers and police officers on GBV and child marriage. A round table was organized by UNICEF and UNHCR on the role of Juvenile Judges to address child marriage.

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Engagement and participation	2,5	C1: Independent complaint mechanism exists for children and women	2
		C2: Civil society engagement, including women and children	2,9
		C3: Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention	2,5

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Financing & HR	1,1	D1: Financing of harmful practices services	1,2
		D2: National budget establishment	1,2
		D3: National budget execution	1
		D4: National budget amount	1
		D5: National budget monitoring and review	1
		D6: Human resources	3,7

Access to services

Measurement standard for mature rating: There are clearly-defined and gender-responsive SOPs or protocols for the elimination of harmful practices, which are regularly reviewed and revised to adapt to emerging situations. There is an excellent awareness of harmful practices among policymakers, with Government-led and funded national-level scale-up prevention and response-related services including integrated case management and referral services, which are accessible at national and sub-national levels. These are user friendly and gender responsive.

E1 Availability of Standard Operating Procedures and/or protocols for harmful practices services: Child marriage is a form of GBV; The SGBV Task Force developed comprehensive GBV SOPs, including GBV case management SOPs for proper identification and follow-up on GBV cases. There are no specific SOPs for child marriage. However, there are annexes for GBV case management SOPs that clearly highlight how to handle cases of married girls and those at risk of child marriage.

E2 Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system: There are a number of curricula being developed about child marriage; mainly the Multi-Sectoral Child Marriage Prevention and Response Toolkit which aims to equip front-line workers with key approaches and practices, knowledge and skills to (1) better understand the issues affecting adolescent girls in general and girls at risk of marriage and married/engaged girls in specific; (2) tailor their interventions according to their needs and, (3) provide girls with dedicated life-skills to prevent child marriage and increase their physical and emotional well-being. The training is tailored to the existing capacities and strategies of each sector. It focuses on how each sector could mainstream child marriage prevention and response within their existing strategies and build the capacity of front-line workers to provide vital information and skills to girls at risk

of marriage, married girls and the main decision-makers in their lives. The toolkit was developed by UNICEF and the International Rescue Committee; however, it is not owned by MOSA. Technical staff within ministries showed good understanding of concepts related to child marriage; however, some of the policymakers still believe that child marriage is a religious and family issue.

E3 Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services: The prevention of and response to child marriage is mainly led by NGOs and civil society actors; the response to child marriage led by the Government is still very limited; some ministries/government entities showed more responsiveness and leadership compared to others – these include the National Commission for Lebanese Women, the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Education and Higher Education
.

E4 Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems: CP/GBV case management SOPs were prepared at the beginning of the Syrian crisis. The GBV case management SOPs clearly tackle the issue of child marriage. However, the CP case management SOPs endorsed by the Government doesn't address child marriage; a revision of these SOPs is planned for 2023, to make sure that it's more gender responsive.

Lebanon has specialist or juvenile courts in Lebanon for children in contact with the law but the procedures adopted by these courts are not child friendly. There are specialized social workers that are mandated by Government to provide support to children involved in formal justice proceeding. However, children usually experience the same system as adults. For women, legal procedures are not gender sensitive or responsive and the national law doesn't take gender into consideration. Among all the 75 forensic doctors mandated by the Ministry of Justice, only one is female. Specialized services for women and girls survivors of GBV or child marriage are available. Clinical Management of Rape care is available in 10 public health facilities across Lebanon. However, the provision of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is covered through UNFPA. Adolescent girls- friendly services are not available within Primary Health Care Centers. Legal services are provided through NGOs. Safety and relocation services are also provided through NGOs funded by international donors and to a certain extent some safe shelter services are provided through the MOSA. CP/GBV case management services are provided through NGOs funded by the international community, and some CP case management services are covered by MOSA social workers.

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Access to Services	3	E1: Availability of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)and/or protocols for harmful practices services	4
		E2: Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system	2,5
		E3: Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services	1
		E4: Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems	3,3

Data collection, monitoring and evaluation

Measurement standard for mature rating: There are administrative data systems as part of a broader national statistics system, which at regular intervals generates gender and age disaggregated data on harmful practices and includes information on hard-to-reach populations; data is regularly used for policy, planning and monitoring of programmes and there are data security and governance mechanisms, such as legislation, in place which ensure confidentiality, Harmful practices issues are routinely captured through population , longitudinal and/or cross-sectional surveys and inform design of prevention and response service interventions. There is also centralized coordination of the data by the national statistics offices with relevant ministries and agencies.

F1: Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices: Questions about harmful practices are integrated within the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) done by the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS). The MICS takes place every five years, and it includes a question about child marriage. Data available from the MICS is segregated by age, including sub-category of age (15—17/17—19) and nationality. Although the MICS is done every five years, a high frequency MICS is planned six months after the initial full- fledged MICS, which is planned for February 2023. There's an official civil registration system in Lebanon where data about marriage and divorce is registered, however, UNICEF doesn't have access to it. There is a GBV Information Management System (IMS), which is an inter-agency tool approved by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR globally to enable GBV case management agencies to collect safely and ethically, store, analyse and share information and data related to GBV survivors. This was rolled out and is used by the social workforce and GBV case managers. Within the GBV IMS data point there is a question related to child marriage.

F2: Data security and governance: There is no legislation on data collection, transfer or sharing of data, usage of data, or there is no accountability in terms of the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors on the generation of data. There are no policies and procedures to ensure the safety of all those involved in data collection processes and management, and there are no data protection and confidentiality protocols.

F3: Research and surveys: Child marriage issues are captured through the MICs planned for 2023.

Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Data collection, monitoring and evaluation	1,6	F1: Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices	2,8
		F2: Data security and governance	1
		F3: Research and surveys	2

IV. Prioritization of actions for Lebanon

Governance & Coordination

A1 Political commitment.
Rating: 1.3

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• The Government could nominate senior staff from the administration with the needed technical expertise to chair a sub-working group on harmful practices.
Medium Term (2-5 yrs)	• Strengthen and enforce a national law that prevents and prohibits child marriage in line with international and regional human rights standards, including by establishing a consistent legal minimum age of marriage of 18 years for girls and boys, with no exceptions (including parental consent or court authorization). • Legislation should be drawn in consultation with communities, civil society, traditional and religious leaders, youth movements and other relevant stakeholders.
Long Term (5+ yrs)	• MOSA to perform the needed budget review/reform, to be able to allocate some budget for the child marriage programming.

A2 Coordination structures.
Rating: 2.8

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• To hold thematic meetings to discuss child marriage twice a year on a regular basis. • To reach out to ministries and ask them to join coordination meetings. • Involve more Government entities.
Medium Term (2-5 yrs)	• Advocacy with MOSA to ensure proper presentation of governmental staff from the administration and not from LCRP in the coordination meetings. • Advocacy for more presence for MOSA in the regional coordination platforms.
Long Term (5+ yrs)	• Advocacy with the Lebanese Government to put HCC under the Prime Minister's office and provide additional human and financial resources.

A3 National Action Plans.
Rating: 2.2

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• Advocate with MOSA for the launch of the national child marriage action plan with no changes in content. • More advocacy is needed with MOSA to launch officially the national child marriage action plan with no changes in the content.
Medium Term (2-5 yrs)	• Advocate with CAS on national indicator on harmful practices.

Policy and Legislation

B1 Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices.
Rating: 1.5

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• Officially launch the national child marriage action plan.
Medium Term (2-5 yrs)	• Strengthen and enforce a national law that prevents and prohibits child marriage in line with international and regional human rights standards, including by establishing a consistent legal minimum age of marriage of 18 years for girls and boys, with no exceptions (including parental consent or court authorization). Legislation should be drawn in consultation with communities, civil society, traditional and religious leaders, youth movements and other relevant stakeholders. • Advocacy with MOSA to create a national mechanism that can be used by girls to record and address cases of discrimination experienced by them. Advocacy with Parliament for a law that sets 18 years as the minimum age for marriage for all boys and girls in Lebanon.

Engagement and participation

C1 Independent complaint mechanism exists for children and women.
Rating: 2

Long Term (5+ yrs)	• Creation of an independent complaints procedure that hears, reviews and responds to individual complaints from children and women about refusal of harmful practices services or about the system or services not being received within the stipulated timeframe.

C2 Civil society engagement, including women and children.
Rating: 2.9

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• To have thematic meetings on child marriage in the field at least twice a year. • Increase involvement with political/religious leaders on issues related to child marriage.
Medium Term (2-5 yrs)	• Increase involvement of CSOs working in remote areas/women-led organizations from the field in the development of national action plans. • Involve civil society actors in monitoring, and reporting the progress of implementation of the national child marriage action plan once launched. • Enhance the social accountability mechanisms for the work of CSOs. • Involve MOSA and other concerned ministries in monitoring the work of community-based groups across Lebanon.

C3 Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention.
Rating: 2.9

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• UNICEF to launch the child protection policy in the media as quickly as possible and roll it out with media institutions.
Long Term (5+ yrs)	• Create formal structures to monitor the work of community-based groups in Lebanon.

Financing & HR

D1 Financing of harmful practices services.
Rating: 1.2

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• Advocacy with some ministries to implement child marriage programmes.
Long Term (5+ yrs)	• Advocacy with MOSA/Ministry of Finance for budget allocation for the harmful practices programme.

D2 National budget establishment.
Rating: 1.2

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• Invest more in Governmental entities that showed commitment in the work on adolescent girls' issues especially the National Commission for Lebanese Women, Ministry of Public Health Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
Long Term (5+ yrs)	• Advocacy with Ministry of Financeand MOSA for more involvement of service providers during the preparation of the national budget • Advocate with MOSA for a budget review and contract review.

D3 National budget execution.
Rating: 1

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• More advocacy with Ministry of Finance on budget issues concerning children.

D4 National budget amount.
Rating: 1

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• Advocate with MOSA for a budget review and contract review.

D5 National budget monitoring and review.
Rating: 1

Long Term (5+ yrs)	• More advocacy with Ministry of Finance on budget issues concerning children.

D6 Human resources.
Rating: 3.7

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• Continue the work with Juvenile Judges to address child marriage.
Medium Term (2-5 yrs)	• Continue building capacities of NGO and Government staff on child marriage.

Access to Services

E1 Availability of Standard Operating Procedures and/or protocols for harmful practices services.
Rating:4

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E2 Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system.
Rating: 2.5

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• Continue the roll-out of the child marriage toolkit.
Long Term (5+ yrs)	• More advocacy with policymakers on understanding concepts related to child marriage.

E3 Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services.
Rating: 4

Medium Term (2-5 yrs)	• More advocacy for leadership of the Government on child marriage issues.

E4 Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems.
Rating: 3.3

Short Term (1-2 yrs)	• More work on child-friendly justice system to ensure it is gender sensitive or responsive. • Continue provision of GBV services for women and children by local and international NGOs.

Data collection, M&E

F1 Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices.

Rating: 2.8

Short Term (1-2 yrs)
- Conduct yearly assessment on child marriage, or the high frequency MICS.

Medium Term (2-5 yrs)
- Advocate for UNICEFs access to the civil registration system.

Long Term (5+ yrs)
- Advocate for a national system that collects harmful practices status information in at least three sectoral patient information systems (e.g. health, legal and/or social services).

F2 Data security and governance.

Rating: 1

Short Term (1-2 yrs)
- Advocate for legislation on data collection, transfer of data, quality recordkeeping, use of data, and the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors.

F3 Research and surveys.

Rating: 2

Short Term (1-2 yrs)
- FMore advocacy, so harmful practices issues are captured through population-based surveys that are recent (less than three years old); through single cross-sectional studies (analyses from a population or subset at a specific point in time), or longitudinal surveys (analyses from repeated observations of the same people over time), or through repeated cross-sectional surveys (analyses from a new sample population at successive time points, e.g. DHS).

Appendix A: Desk review

No. 1 Discussion document

Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund-United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Key Messages on Child Marriage in Lebanon – the role of the Juvenile Justice System', UNICEF-UNHCR, 2022.

The document is structured around four thematic areas framed within the UNICEF and UNHCR special project on the role of the juvenie justice system in addressing child marriage in Lebanon. The document sheds light on the possibility of involving Juvenile Judges in Lebanon in protecting children from marriage.

Twenty seven per cent of Syrian refugee girls between the ages of 15 and 19 years were married or engaged to be married, compared to 13 per cent of Palestinian girls from Syria, 4 per cent of Palestinian girls in Lebanon and 6 per cent of Lebanese women between the ages of 20 and 24 years who were married before the age of 18 years.

Factors and consequence of child marriage:

- Stereotypical gender roles, believe men are superior to women.

- Prevalence of gender inequality and male subjugation in many countries.

- Parents encourage girls to get married for fear of social stigma, and to protect girls.

- Poverty and insecurity.

- Phenomenon is exacerbated when humanitarian crises arise.__

Efforts made to address child marriage at the national level

- Given an absence of necessary legal protection in this regard, efforts have been made over the past few years and a number of proposals and bills have been presented to set a legal age for marriage.

- MOSA and UNICEF, in cooperation with UNHCR, are working on the formulation of a national action plan for the prevention and response to child marriage in Lebanon.__

Lebanon's commitment to human rights issues

- The Constitution reaffirms the fundamental freedoms and rights that establish the principles of justice.

- Lebanon also adheres to a number of international human rights treaties which consider that, "the engagement or marriage of a child shall have no legal effect",[14] and which call on states to raise the legal age of marriage to 18 years for both girls and boys without exception.

- Lebanon has not made reservations to the provisions of the CRC or CEDAW regarding the age of marriage.

Lebanon's commitment to ensuring the best interests of children and his/per production

- Law 422 includes expressions that emphasize the "best interests of the child"; such as "fair and humane treatment", "most appropriate measures", "compromises", "amicable solutions", which is a reflection of the multidimensions of the law and sets a roadmap for those working in the juvenile justice system when applying the law.

No. 2 National Social and Behavioural Change Communication Plan

Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund- Ministry of Social Affairs, 'QUDWA: National Social and Behavioural Change Communications Plan to Prevent Violence against Children and Women, Child Marriage and Child Labour,' UNICEF-MOSA, 2019.

Qudwas are centres in places where children can access legal, psychological and emotional support and participate in different activities to strengthen their resilience and reduce their risk of being abused or exploited.

This is a communication plan on prevention of GBV and child marriage and initiating of social change in Lebanon. Communication is seen as essential to promote positive behaviours and social change leading to improvements in the protection of girls, boys and women. It requires close alignment with other strands of programming including service provision, community engagement and legal and policy framework.

The plan starts with an analysis of the drivers of the behaviours that the plan seeks to prevent in Lebanon and aims to provide insights into the decision-making process of our programme participants utilizing a variety of lenses reflecting the diversity and nuances of men, women, boys and girls living in Lebanon. Based on this analysis, four areas where social and behavioural change communications can play a role have been identified:

- Conducive social environment for the adoption of protective behaviours is developed.

- Positive individual attitudes towards nurturing caregiving, non-violent behaviours and empowerment of girls and women are promoted.

- Targeted communities are empowered to act and lead the change.

- Increased individual self-efficacy for protective behaviours.

Several social and behavioural change communications approaches have been identified to achieve those objectives and an overarching brand has been developed in order to ensure that all the interventions proposed under this plan are consistent and contribute to make the social change visible.

Packages of activities have been designed under each approach, and a multi-sector implementation and M&E plan are proposed in order to ensure the sustainability and success of the plan.

The Theory of Change says that:

- IF a conducive environment for the adoption of protective behaviours is developed, and;

- IF positive individual attitudes towards nurturing caregiving, non-violent behaviours, and empowerment of girls and women are promoted, and;

- IF targeted communities are empowered to act and lead the change, and; IF there is increased individual self-efficacy for communal protective behaviours;

- THEN behaviours that promote the well-being, dignity and equality of women, girls and boys will be practised and become the norm in Lebanon.

No. 3   UNICEF publication

Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund, 'Violent Beginnings: Children growing up in Lebanon's crisis', UNICEF, December 2021, <www.unicef.org/lebanon/reports/violent-beginnings>.

The document highlights the devastating impact inancial and political collapse is having in Lebanon, with social breakdown and increased protection risks.

Structures that normally protect children are slowly disintegrating and access to the basics they need to survive is deteriorating. Multidimensional poverty – which takes into account not just household income, but deprivation in areas like housing, health care and education – has nearly doubled in Lebanon, from 42 per cent in 2019, to 82 per cent in 2021.

Families are struggling to provide food for their children. Fifty three per cent of families surveyed by UNICEF in October had at least one child who had skipped a meal in the past 30 days, compared with 37 per cent in April.

Almost the entirety of Lebanon's refugee population is living in extreme poverty and does not have enough money to buy the food they need to survive.

Access to education is also inadequate. The COVID-19 pandemic kept 1.2 million students out of school in 2020 and into 2021. Hundreds of thousands of children are still unable to attend school.

As basic social services collapse, so too do the social systems that protect children, placing them at increased risk of violence, abuse and exploitation.

Families are increasingly turning to negative coping strategies such as child marriage or child labour.

Child marriage is also a major risk, as desperate families seek dowries and security for their offspring. One in five Syrian girls aged 15–19 years in Lebanon is married. Twenty two per cent of Syrian girls aged 15–18 years who do not attend school say it is due to marriage, compared to 0.1 per cent of boys. The latest figures show 4 per cent of Lebanese girls aged 15–19 years are married, but experts fear the true figures may be much higher.

No. 4   Country brief.

Name of document:

United Nations Fund for Children, 'Child Marriage in the Middle East and North Africa – Lebanon Country Brief', United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Middle East and North Africa Regional Office in collaboration with the International Center for Research on Women (IRCW), 2016, <www.unicef.org/mena/media/1806/file/MENA-CMReport-LebanonBrief.pdf%20.pdf>.

The country brief highlights the political and economic context, prevalence of child marriage, methodology of the assessment, key findings and recommendations.

UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programmes five outcomes:

- Adolescent girls at risk of, and affected by, child marriage are better able to express and exercise their choices.

- Households demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours regarding gender equality and equity.

- Relevant sectoral systems deliver quality and cost-effective services to meet the needs of adolescent girls.

- National laws, policy framework and mechanisms to protect and promote adolescent girls' rights are in line with international standards and properly resourced.

- Governments support and promote the generation and use of robust data and evidence to inform programme design, track progress and document lessons.

Summary of key findings:

- Gendered barriers to mobility restrict girls' movement.

- Family and spousal control make accessing girls challenging.

- Opportunity costs limit access to education for Syrian refugees.

- Girls may lack awareness of the negative consequences of child marriage.

- Conflict and instability exacerbate child marriage.

- Restricted mobility limits access to at risk and already married girls.

- Trust must be built in refugee communities.

- Respondents are confident in their organization's capacity to address child marriage.

- There is consensus that a national strategy is needed to address child marriage, but currently none has been approved.

- Currently, religious law determines the minimum age of marriage.

- Legality perpetuates child marriage.

- National efforts to end child marriage are ongoing.

- Lack of coordination perpetuates evidence gaps.

- Incentivizing participation in education and social programming.

Summary of key recommendations:

- Maintain and strengthen safe spaces for women and girls.

- Increase financial incentives for sending girls to school.

- Implement holistic community programming.

- Scale-up the engagement of receptive religious leaders.

- Ensure sustainable services through long-term funding and capacity building of local organizations.

- Employ people from the targeted community to increase the cultural and contextual sensitivity of interventions.

- Coordinate advocacy efforts to end child marriage.

- Increase research cooperation and collaboration.

- Support evaluation of current prevention programming.

- Develop an M&E framework and tools.

No. 5   Research document

Name of document:

Center for Public Health Practice of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut/Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)/UNICEF Lebanon, 'Adolescent Girls Access to Primary Health Care Services in Lebanon: Barriers and facilitating factors, UNICEF December 2020' www.unicef.org/lebanon/reports/adolescent-girls-access-primary-health-care-services-lebanonbarriers-and-facilitating.

This qualitative study explores the perceived barriers and facilitating factors facing Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian adolescent girls aged 10–18 years in accessing primary health care services in Lebanon – including clinical management of rape (CMR) and mental and reproductive health services – with a focus on adolescent girls at high risk of GBV. The findings will be used to inform programmes and interventions targeting adolescent girls, and the broader areas of work in health, nutrition and prevention of gender-based violence, and to provide evidence that will support the Ministry of Public Health in the development of health strategies that address the needs of adolescent girls.

The objectives of this study were to:

- Identify specific priorities for enhancing adolescent girls' access to primary healthcare and GBV services across Lebanon.

- Generate evidence to be used to design services that better address the needs and gaps in healthcare provision and policies for adolescent girls.

Findings:

- Identified psychological factors that affected adolescent girls' service seeking behaviour, including fear, stigma, low self-efficacy and limited decision-making, and lack of awareness about services.

- Sociological factors that were found to affect adolescent girls' service seeking behaviour included role of gendered family structure, family roles, social norms, socioeconomic and political context

- Environmental factors, structural factors that may drive behaviour, including accessibility, opening hours, safe locations physical infrastructure and perceived quality._

The document makes recommendation at governance, service provision, intersectoral, and community levels.

No. 6   Internal report

Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund, 'Child, Early and Forced Marriage, UNICEF, 2022.

This document gives asuccinct summary on the situation in Lebanon related to child marriage, and then goes into detail on:

- The policy and legislative framework.

- Efforts for a unified minimum age of marriage.

- Opportunities within the existing legal framework.

- Government-led strategies.

- Service provision.

- Tailored GBV protection services for adolescent girls.

- Mainstreaming of other sectors.

- Adapting services to new realities.

- Raising awareness, shifting norms and changing behaviours.

- Evidence generation.

No. 7   National strategy

Name of document:

Ministry of Public Health, Republic of Lebanon, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Children's Fund, 'The National Strategy to Institutionalize Clinical Management of Rape Programming Within Public Health Facilities in Lebanon, October 2021, <https://lebanon.unfpa.org/en/publications/national-strategy-institutionalize-clinical-management-rape-programming-within-public>.

The Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) strategy was developed following consultations and inputs from the Ministries of Social Affairs, Justice, Interior and Education and Higher Education; the Lebanese Order of Nurses, Social Workers Syndicate and Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology and non-governmental and international organizations, along with insights and live experiences shared by survivors.

In light of the magnifying risks and crises in Lebanon evolving around the COVID-19 pandemic, political and social instability aligned with the constant and severe economic challenges, vulnerable communities and displaced people including refugees (where levels of poverty have reached 82 per cent among Lebanese and 90 per cent among Syrians), are the most at risk of violation of their human rights.

The CMR strategy comes as a comprehensive, sustainable and collective response to all forms of violence, including rape, paving the way to the protection of 'at risk' and 'survivors' of rape in Lebanon seeking ultimately an enhanced quality of services and the well-being of survivors.

No. 8   National action plan

Name of document:

Higher Council for Childhood/United Nations Children's Fund, 'National Action Plan to Prevent and Mitigate Child Marriage in Lebanon', 2020.

The National Action Plan to Prevent and Mitigate Child Marriage 2020–2025 presents a framework for goals and targets to be reached and actions and interventions to be implemented, also defining indicators for follow-up. The plan spells out the responsibilities of different stakeholders for achieving objectives within the required timeframe. It also recognizes and seeks to harmonize existing strategies and policies that are in some way related to the areas of intervention of the action plan, including MOSA's Strategic Plan on the Protection of Women and Children 2019–2026, the Lebanon National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, the National Strategy for Women in Lebanon 2011-2021, the QUDWA: National Social and Behavioural Change Communications Plan to Prevent

Violence against Children and Women, Child Marriage and Child Labour , Ministry of Education and Higher Education's national inclusion policy, and the Ministry of Public Health's Strategic Health Plan 2016–2020..

Objectives:

- Improving the legal context to prevent and mitigate child marriage.

- Establishing a multi-sectoral mechanism for protection at the decentralized level and upscaling it in different regions and districts of Lebanon.

- Upgrading and improving accessibility to different services to provide protection for girls at risk of child marriage, as well as married girls.

- Building the capacity of social workers, judges and other workers in different services and NGOs intervening in different domains related to the protection of girls.

No. 9   Research report

Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund, 'Underneath the Surface: Understanding the root causes of violence against children and women in Lebanon', UNICEF, 2020, www.unicef.org/lebanon/media/5251/file/UNICEF_Lebanon_Social_Norms_research1_EN.pdf%20.pdf.

A qualitative study using innovative data collection techniques to unravel the complex reasons accompanying violence against children and women using a Social Behavioural Model.

The research looks at the drivers and root causes of child labour, child marriage, violence against children, intimate partner violence and children engaged in armed violence, in Lebanon. It uses the social behavioural change model to understand the driver's dimensions including social norms. It provides a wide view of the perception and attitudes of those who influence, decide on and/or encourage violence

on women and children. Given the objective was to unpack the root causes and drivers, the research adopted a formative qualitative approach. Interactive and innovative tools were used for data collection, such as problem tree, ranking and deep dive. Around 100 focus group discussions were held across Lebanon, covering all nationalities, age, and sex. Analysis was conducted using the Social Behavioural Change Model. Child marriage: At times, boys thought of child marriage as a sign of maturity, a view that was sometimes shared by members of their community. If they can start their own family, they were expected to do it. For girls, child marriage was often seen as a potential way out of their parents' homes.
Child marriage was found to be highly influenced by sociological factors. Even when they weren't explicitly mentioned by participants, the effects of gender norms and consequent social expectations were noticeable. For boys, it was seen to signify maturity as men, while for girls, it signified an opportunity to attain a higher level of personal agency by starting her own household, which often was seen as one of few ways such agency can be attained. [15]

No. 10   Evaluation report

Name of document:

United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund, 'UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage: Joint evaluation', UNFPA-UNICEF, New York, May 2019,

The report presents the findings of the evaluation of the first phase of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage (GPECM). The programme is jointly managed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The programme is implemented in 12 countries in 4 regions with multiple partners and stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels.

Key findings and conclusions include:

- The programme is well aligned to global and regional frameworks and commitments to end child marriage.

- The application of the GPECM has been responsive to local contexts and has been adapted in each country, although only a few countries have formally adapted the Theory of Change.

- The widespread acknowledgment that child marriage impinges on children's rights and welfare provides a strong foundation and rationale for the ending child marriage agenda.

- Despite efforts to target high prevalence areas and reach the most vulnerable, in many instances, interventions have not yet reached the most remote areas, including many of those that are furthest behind.

- Outcome 1 – The GPECM is increasingly able to reach adolescent girls with activities under Output 1.1, having reached nearly 5.5 million girls by mid-2018, far exceeding the programme's objective to reach 2.5 million girls by the end of 2019.

- Outcome 2 – Country offices have significantly expanded community outreach (Output 2.1) and the GPECM shows signs of scaling up, reaching approximately 11.5 million individuals with information related to ending child marriage in the first half of 2018, significantly more than in 2016 and 2017 combined

- Outcome 3 – Country offices have increased targets for girls' access to health and protection services every year of the GPECM and have collectively exceeded targets each year.

- Outcome 4 – UNFPA and UNICEF have worked collaboratively at the highest levels to support governments to develop and implement national/state action plans to end child marriage.

- Outcome 5 – GPECM investments in research and data have contributed to building a stronger evidence base on child marriage, although tracking has not offered an indication of data quality and usability to date.

Key recommendations include:

- Prioritize normative leadership. Expand framework for country contextualization (Theory of Change).

- Consolidate and strengthen the evidence-based knowledge management.

- Define and monitor jointness, convergence and complementarity.

- Strengthen and contextualise monitoring and reporting systems.

- Invest in human resources.

- Strengthen the programme.

- Find funds.

No. 11   Benchmarking Child Protection Systems Strengthening Assessment Tool

Name of document:

United Nations Children's Fund, 'Child Protection Systems Strengthening: Approaches, benchmarks and interventions', UNICEF, 2021, <www.unicef.org/documents/child-protection-systems-strengthening>.

The Child Protection Systems Strengthening Maturity Model developed by UNICEF elaborates priorities, processes and results to be achieved in each phase of child protection system strengthening and provides comprehensive benchmarks to effectively manage investments and results in systems strengthening. The benchmarks are defined by the Intermediate Outcomes, and defined by benchmarks or sub-domains. This tool was developed and later completed by 155 UNICEF country offices, including Lebanon, in December 2021. This serves to measure the level of maturity, or benchmark, the status of child protection systems strengthening. UNICEF has developed a detailed and summary guides on the benchmarking tool, which will be adapted for the Lebanese context.

This tool will be used as the primary framework to benchmark the level of maturity of the Lebanese Child Protection System, with an addition added to identify priority actions needed to improve the ratings or level of maturity.

The intermediate outcomes identified in the tool include:

- Legal and policy framework.

- Governance and coordination structures.

- A continuum of services.

- Minimum standards and oversight mechanisms.

- Human, financial and infrastructure resources.

- Mechanisms for child participation and community engagement.

- Data collection and monitoring systems.

No. 12   Global policy document

Name of document:

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 'Building Blocks for Policy Coherence for Development', OECD, 2009, www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/44704030.pdf.

To meet the challenge of building strong child protection systems while building a global partnership for development, governments need to ensure that their policies are supportive or, at a minimum, do not undermine their development policies. In other words there needs to be policy coherence for development (PCD); this aims to exploit positive synergies and spillovers across public policies to foster development – "it entails the systematic application of mutually reinforcing policies and integration

of development concerns across government departments to achieve development goals along with national policy objectives". [16]

Progress towards policy coherence is understood as a three-phase cycle with each phase of the cycle supported by one of three building blocks. The PCD approach requires that all three building blocks are in place with sufficient weight given to each phase of the policy coherence cycle. These include three Phases: i) Setting and prioritizing objectives; ii) Coordinating policy and its implementation; and iii) Monitoring, analysis and reporting.

These three phases are also known as critical building blocks and there are nine lessons derived across the three phases of the cycle above to promote PCD.

Appendix B: Country data visualization Lebanon

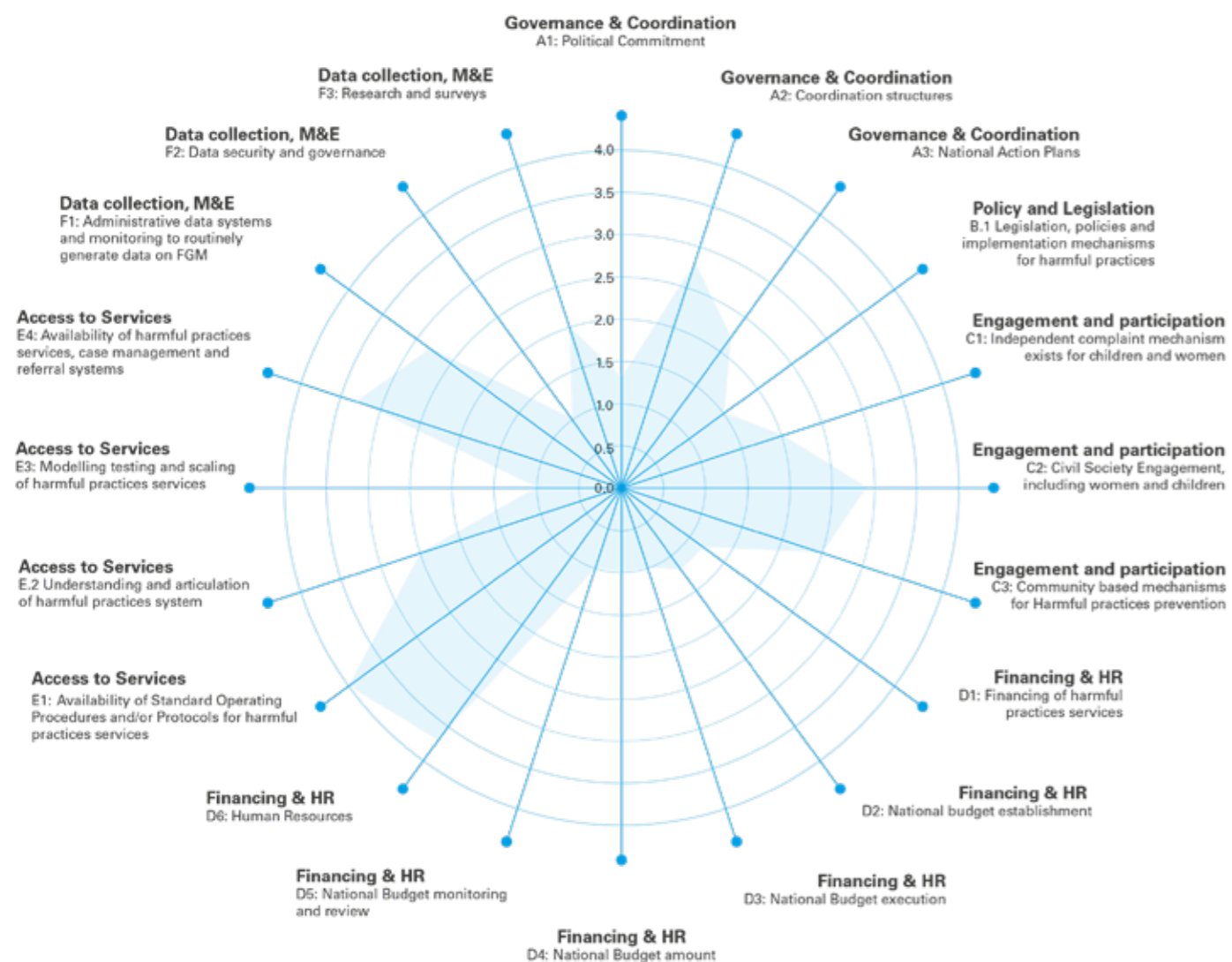| Name of Country	Overall Score	Sub-Domains	Specific Score
Governance & Coordination	2,1	A1: Political commitment	1,3
		A2: Coordination structures	2,8
		A3: National Action Plans	2,2
Policy and Legislation	1,5	B1: Legislation, policies and implementation mechanisms for harmful practices	1,5
Engagement and participation	2,5	C1: Independent complaint mechanism exists for children and women	2
		C2: Civil society engagement, including women and children	2,9
		C3: Community-based mechanisms for harmful practices prevention	2,5
Financing & HR	1,1	D1: Financing of harmful practices services	1,2
		D2: National budget establishment	1,2
		D3: National budget execution	1
		D4: National budget amount	1
		D5: National budget monitoring and review	1
		D6: Human resources	3,7
Access to Services	2,7	E1: Availability of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)and/or protocols for harmful practices services	4
		E2: Understanding and articulation of harmful practices system	2,5
		E3: Modelling testing and scaling of harmful practices services	1
		E4: Availability of harmful practices services, case management and referral systems	3,3
Data collection, monitoring and evaluation	1,9	F1: Administrative data systems and monitoring to routinely generate data on harmful practices	2,8
		F2: Data security and governance	1
		F3: Research and surveys	2

Intermediate Outcomes Summary

Intermediate Outcome areas

Governance & Coordination	2.1
Policy and Legislation	1.5
Engagement and participation	2.5
Financing & HR	1.1
Access to Services	2.7
Data collection, M&E	1.9
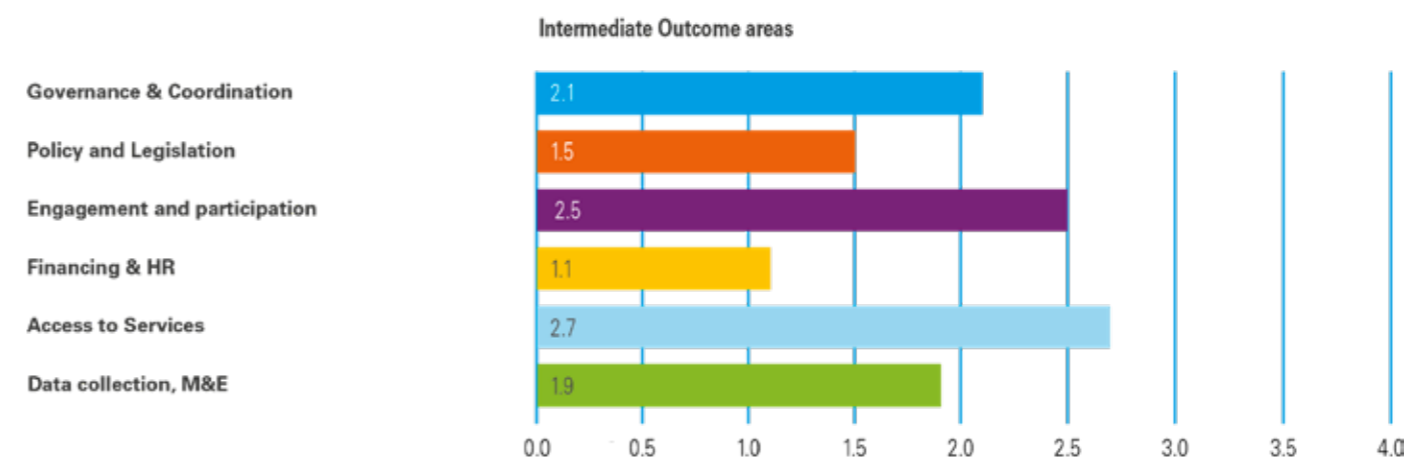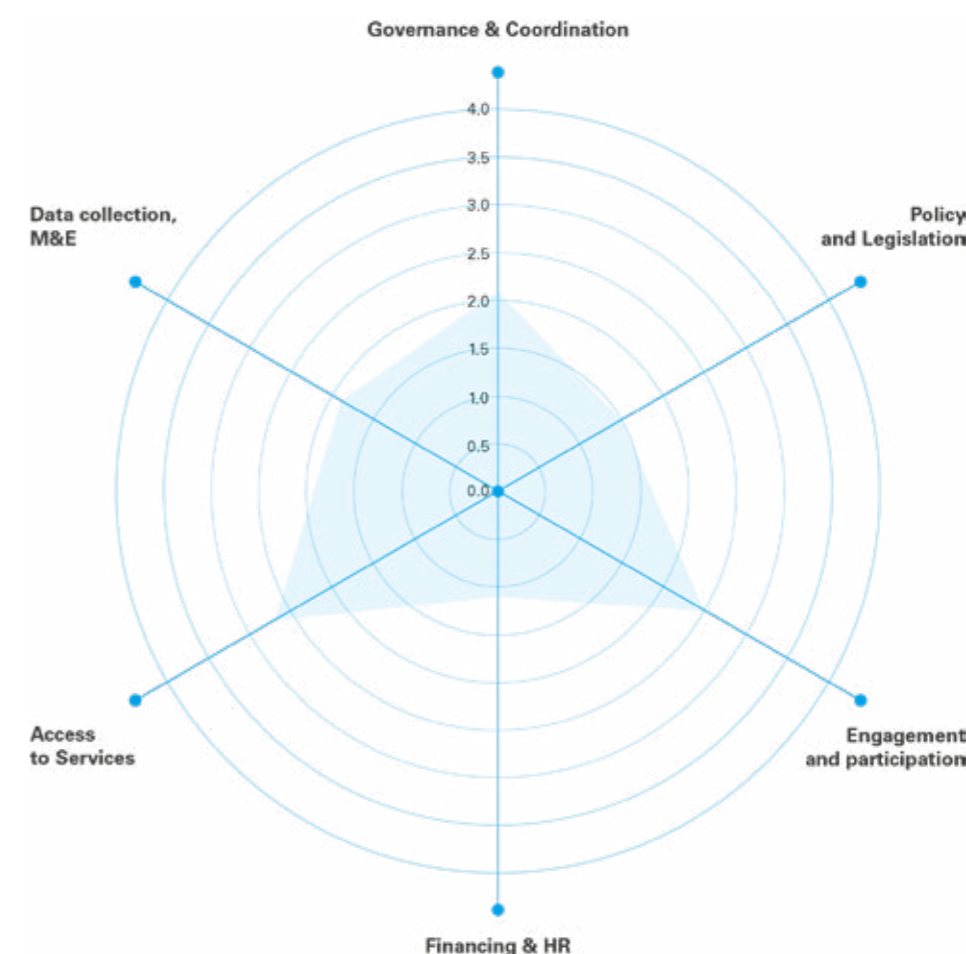
Sub-Domains Summary

Intermediate Outcome areas

A1: Political commitment

A2: Coordination structures

A3: National Action Plans

B1: Legislation, policies and implementation
mechanisms for harmful practices

C1: Independent complaint mechanism exists
for children and women

C2: Civil society engagement,
including women and children

C3: Community-based mechanisms
for harmful practices prevention

D1: Financing of harmful practices services

D2: National budget establishment

D3: National budget execution

D4: National budget amount

D5: National budget monitoring
and review

D6: Human resources

E1: Availability of Standard Operating Procedures
and/or protocols for harmful practices services

E2: Understanding and articulation
of harmful practices system

E3: Modelling testing and scaling
of harmful practices services

E4: Availability of harmful practices services,
case management and referral systems

F1: Administrative data systems and monitoring
to routinely generate data on harmful practices

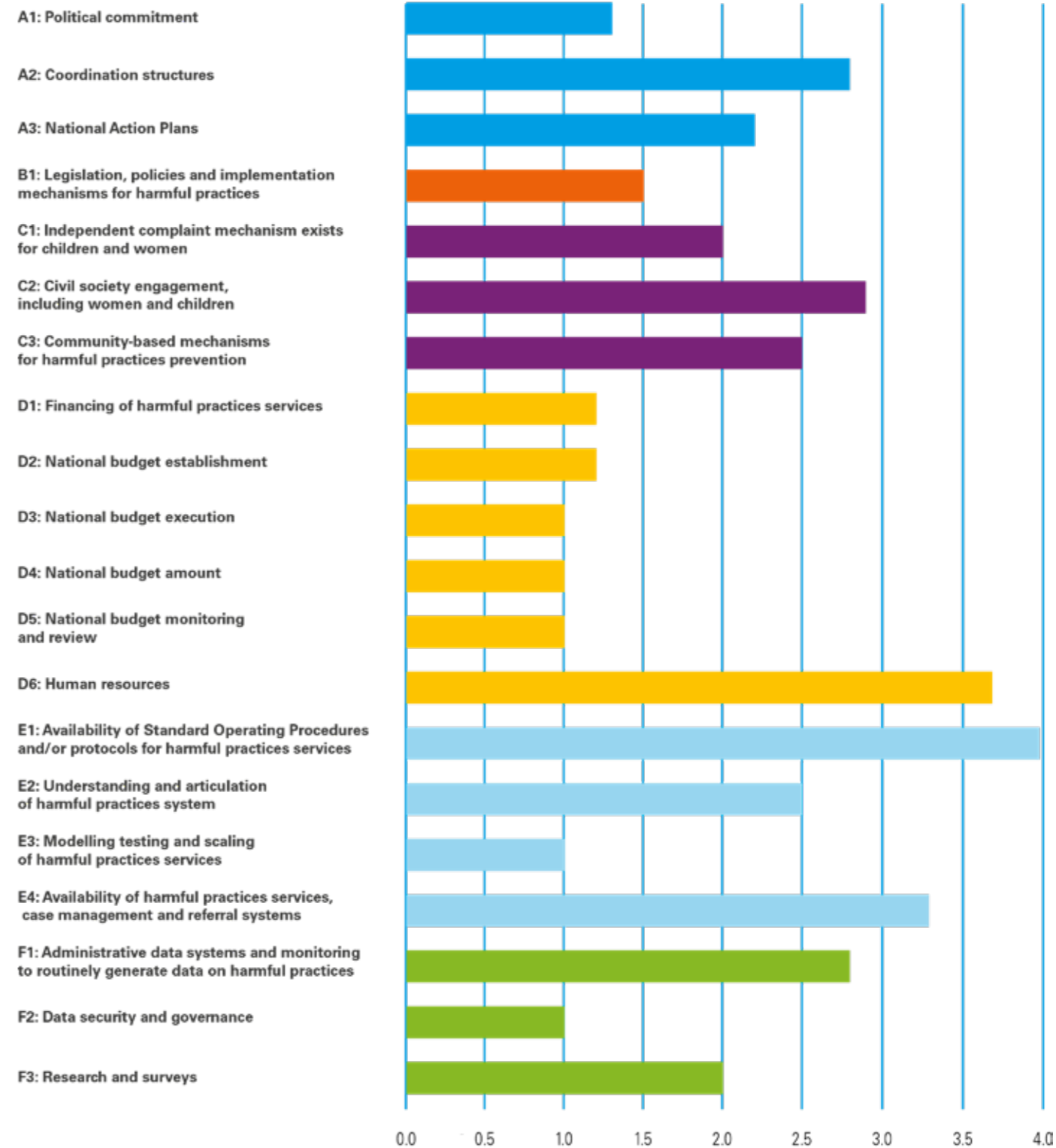F2: Data security and governance

F3: Research and surveys

LEBANON

Endnotes

1 Gender-Based Violence Information Management System: National overview, January–September 2017, National GBV IMS Steering Committee, Government of Lebanon; 2017.

2 United Nations Children's Fund, Baseline survey, UNICEF, 2016.

3 ibid.

4 United Nations Children's Fund, 'Underneath the Surface: Understanding the root causes of violence against children and women in Lebanon', UNICEF, 2020.

5 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 'Multidimensional poverty in Lebanon (2019–2021): Painful reality and uncertain prospects', UNESCWA, E/ESCWA/CL3.SEP/2021/POLICY BRIEF.2, 2021.

6 Lebanon Emergency Response Plan (2020–2021).

7 The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR), 2021.

8 The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR), 2020 and 2021.

9 The PPM approach formulates and influences public policy through a public policy process or 'the policy cycle' consisting of five major stages – namely agenda setting; formulating and legitimation of goals and programmes; programme implementation, evaluation and implementation, decision about the future of the policy and programme. Source: RIPLEY, Randall B., (1985), 'Stages of the policy process'. In: McCool, Daniel, C., Public Policy Theories, Models, and Concepts: an anthology, Prentice Hall 1995, <https://perguntasaopo.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/rypley_19851995_stages-of-the-policy-process.pdf>.

10 These include Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia.

11 Lebanon filed a reservation to CEDAW, Article 9, par 1: "States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality."

12 Lebanon has 15 different family and personal status laws, each with its own minimum age permitted for marriage. Article 9 of the Lebanese constitution guarantees, "that the personal status and religious interests of the population, to whatever religious sect they belong, shall be respected." Religious courts perceive any reform which supersedes the sectarian personal status laws as a step towards a civil unified personal status law and, therefore, as a threat to their authority.

13 Family Law No. 46/2011.

14 Specifically Article 2 on non-discrimination; Article 3 on the best interests of the child; Article 12 on the right of the child to be heard depending on his age and level of maturity; Article 19 on the basic measures that must be taken to protect the child from all forms of violence; Article 34 on the protection of children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse; Article 35 on measures that must be taken to prevent the abduction, sale or trafficking of children and Article 36 on the protection of children from other forms of exploitation that are harmful to the child.

15 United Nations Children's Fund, 'Child Protection Systems Strengthening: Approaches, benchmarks and interventions', UNICEF, 2021, www.unicef.org/documents/child-protection-systems-strengthening.

16 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 'Policy Framework for Policy Coherence for Development', OECD, 2012. Working paper 1.

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Maturity Model Desk Review, Assessment and Action Planning

COUNTRY: LEBANON

Development of maturity model and assessment tools for harmful practices policies