

UPR 2020 Lebanon

Children's Rights in Lebanon

1. Introduction:

- 1.1. **Lebanon's comprehensive Universal Periodic Review** was concluded by the Human Rights Council in its 31st session in March 2016. The Council adopted the results of the second review, which included 219 recommendations, 128 of which were accepted and 91 rejected by Lebanon. They included several recommendations related to the protection of the rights of children, particularly in the fields of combating child labor and improving the effectiveness and quality social services, especially in education and health. However, the state failed to undertake measures commensurate with the challenges in this context and remains mostly responsible for the failures.ⁱ
- 1.2. **This report was prepared in cooperation and coordination with a coalition of CSOs and associations working in the field of child rights in Lebanon**, namely Himaya, ALEF, Lebanese Union for People with Disabilities, KAFA, Najdeh, Naba'a, MANARA Network, Palestinian Human Rights Organization, and Mouvement Social, in addition to the participation of a group of children and parents in the discussion on this report's recommendations. The report provides an evaluation of approved recommendations and Lebanon's voluntary commitments during the second review. It can also contribute to enhancing the role of CSOs in monitoring and evaluating children's rights and raising the level of government accountability.
- 1.3. **This report highlights the key issues that constitute grave violations of children's rights.** The information and data gathered in this report will constitute the basis for Lebanon's third review. Children and parents from various Lebanese regions were involved in its discussions and preparation.ⁱⁱ
- 1.4. **The Lebanese Constitution asserts that Lebanon is a founding and active member of the UN and is committed to its human rights obligations.** Lebanon was among the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child on May 14, 1991 (without reservations) and to ratify the Optional Protocol on Trafficking in Children. It also signed the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict,ⁱⁱⁱ but has yet to sign or ratify Optional Protocol 3 on the procedure for submitting communications. In the absence of political will to promote the human rights situation, children's rights in Lebanon suffer from various challenges that have multiplied since the UPR's first and second sessions.
- 1.5. **Situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon - forced return:** Since the outbreak of the war in Syria in 2011 until 2016, Lebanon received 1,011,366 registered at the UNHCR. About half of the Syrian refugees and the Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon were children who were exposed to great risks, including child labor, sexual exploitation, and all sorts of neglect and violence, in addition to

recruitment to armed groups. They live in harsh conditions, as many lack legal residency documents, face restrictions on their freedom of movement, and live in constant fear of arbitrary arrests, forced demolitions of refugee shelters, and the suppression of Syrian workers without work permits. According to *The Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR-2018)*,^{iv} conducted jointly by UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP in 2018, the situation of refugees remains precarious, despite some improvements in some areas thanks to the extensive humanitarian response in the country. It indicated that Syrian refugees in Lebanon are accumulating more debt than ever, revealing that 88% of Syrian refugee households have debts. It added that 69% of Syrian refugee families remain below the poverty line, while over 51% live below the survival minimum expenditure basket of USD2.90 per day. These harsh and deteriorating conditions in Lebanon have led many of them to return to Syria despite their doubts about their safety there.^v The Lebanese Directorate General of General Security (GDGS) estimated that more than 170,000 Syrian refugees returned to their country from Lebanon between December 2017 and March 2019.^{vi} Accordingly, the return caravans organized by the GDGS in collaboration with relevant Syrian authorities lacked a plan to ensure the safe return of Syrian refugees, despite declarations by the UNHCR that it will not encourage or facilitate the return of refugees before verifying the safety of the situation in Syria. In November 2018, the Lebanese Minister of State for Refugee affairs "said that about 20 refugees, including at least 2 children, have been killed by Syrian regime forces since their return."^{vii}

1.6. Situation of Palestinian Refugees - UNRWA Crisis: Palestinian refugees in Lebanon continue to suffer human rights violations and discrimination in laws and procedures due to the lack of a clear and binding framework for providing them with protection, in violation of their civil, economic, and social rights which has continued for the past 71 years and contradicts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international conventions and agreements. In early 2017, the US administration suspended its financial contributions to UNRWA, which provides services to about 6 million registered Palestinian refugees, including hospitalization, relief, infrastructure, camp improvement, microcredit, and free education for about half a million students, in addition to providing jobs for about 30,000 Palestinians. The decision led a further deterioration in the situation of Palestinian refugees, as UNRWA's services began to shrink and insufficient to meet the needs of an increasing number of refugees. In 2019, the Ministry of Labor, under former Minister Camille Abousleiman, began a campaign to combat illegal foreign labor in Lebanon, which involved raids on establishments employing Palestinians without work permits. Previous governments had avoided such measures, in line with the official approach to treat Palestinians differently than other foreign workers, due to their unique situation.

1.7. Lebanon's Economic Crisis - October 17 Uprising: Prior to the October 17, 2019 uprising, Lebanon was in a downward spiral on all fronts, politically, financially,

economically, and socially. The country was inundated by several crises, particularly the decline in its ability to service the public debt and lack of foreign currency in the market, while the government discussed the 2020 budget that aimed to place the burden and repercussions of the financial crisis on ordinary citizens. The tax imposed on WhatsApp calls by the government (which it later withdrew) was the spark that brought hundreds of thousands of Lebanese, led by women, children, and the elderly, to the streets to raise their demands. The three-month uprising was preceded by a series of events, including massive fires that highlighted widespread negligence and corruption, including the inability to use the firefighting helicopter, which had been left unused and unmaintained for years. Moreover, the 2019-2020 academic year began in mid-September with the transfer of 18,500 students from private to public schools - already suffering from overcrowding and overflow - due to the high living costs, rising tuition fees, and the beginning of a wave of dismissals in some establishments. Lebanese University professors also went on strike to demand long-standing rights, as budget discussions coincided with several austerity measures by the government, which affected their salaries, their health mutual fund, the university's budget, and fixed contracts. With the teachers on strike, students took to the streets demanding improvements related to education and student life at the Lebanese University. This was in addition to protests against environmental scandals, especially in the Litani River basin, whose waters became toxic, causing a high level of cancer in adjacent villages and towns in the Bekaa region.^{viii}

- 1.8. COVID-19 Pandemic and its aftermath:** The financial and economic crisis in Lebanon have exacerbated due to Corona-virus pandemic and the lockdown that have been caused by the mentioned epidemic. The proportion of people living below the extreme poverty line is expanding at an accelerated rate 22%. The government's response to the Corona pandemic was rapid and a series of measures took place to reduce the spread of the virus as it included Public mobilization which involved with the complete lockdown of all educational institutions, the private sector and public institutions as well as the flights suspension and the establishment of a national operations room for disaster management, which was characterized by its effectiveness, And raising the readiness of hospitals and public and private laboratories, as well as organizing the return of expat and tracking their health conditions, and health checks and other measures as well .However, in terms of direct aid to those most affected by the crisis, the Council of Ministers announced its intention to distribute 400,000 Lebanese pounds for the poorest families. But it didn't provide adequate details, a week earlier, it pledged to provide 75 billion pounds of food and health aid without details. Nearly a month after the lockdown, the absence of any clear response has been realized and at the same time, it is coordinated by the government where many families are hungry and unable to meet their basic needs, including rent. A taxi driver has burned his car when the internal

security forces fined him for breaking the rules of the lockdown. In addition to the suicide of four people within a week from different Lebanese regions due to the difficult economic situation. On the refugee level, the Lebanese government exercised discriminatory and unjustified restrictions on freedom of movement. In addition to failing to provide refugees with updated and accurate information about the virus and the health care services available to them, as it is one of the human rights obligations of the Lebanese government.

- 2. Child Rights - Overview and General Recommendations:** In 2017, Lebanese Parliament passed a Law No. 62/16 to establish the Independent National Commission for Human Rights, which includes a Committee to Prevent Torture. A referral and monitoring system for cases of children at risk was also established across the Ministry of Social Affairs' departments. The Ministry of National Education and Higher Education launched an educational plan aimed at integrating students with disabilities into the general educational system. GDGS established an administrative unit to combat the crime of human trafficking. However, Lebanon has not yet ratified the CRC Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, despite signing it 18 years ago.

Recommendation 1: Ratify the CRC Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.

Recommendation 2: Fulfill international obligations, especially Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security to protect women and girls from the impact of armed conflicts and sexual violence in particular.

Recommendation 3: Effective implementation of international treaties, agreements, covenants, and protocols that Lebanon has ratified by adopting local laws and reforms and making the necessary adjustments to harmonize existing laws, policies, and practices.

Recommendation 4: Establish a grievance mechanism to report violations against children.

- 3. Right to Legal Personality:** Lebanese laws discriminate against women in general and deprives Lebanese women from giving their nationality to their children. It also deprives Palestinian refugee women in Lebanon from giving their legal identity to their children, although UNRWA a UN agency and it is assumed that those under its jurisdiction are subject to human rights standards. However, Lebanese legal factors impose themselves on the Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA, who are unable to register their children in their column, depriving those married to husbands without identity papers from registering their sons and daughters. Moreover, Palestinian refugee women registered at the Department of Political Affairs and Refugees who are married to foreigners are unable to provide a courtesy residency for their children, as with Lebanese women, or an annual residency for a fee for their husbands, as with Palestinian refugee husbands registered at the same department, who are allowed this right for their foreign wives. The Lebanese government also impedes the registration and extraction of documents for newborn children of refugees from Syria. Instead of facilitating procedures to take

into account their status as people fleeing a war-torn country, they are further complicated under the pretext of expiry of residency of one or both parents, which denies newborn children a legal personality.

Recommendation 5: Register and complete the extraction of personal identification documents for newborn Palestinian refugees from Syria, in compliance with ratified international agreements.

Recommendation 6: Amend the Lebanese Nationality Law to allow Lebanese women married to foreigners to give their legal identity to their children.

Recommendation 7: The Lebanese state should be sensitive to the situation of Palestinian refugees married to Lebanese women and put an end to measures that hinder their right to acquire citizenship.

4. Right to Protection

4.1. Protection of children from all forms of violence and abuse: Two studies involving 1,028 children between 8 and 17 have shown that 30% experienced violent practices at least once, 65% have experienced psychological violence at least once, 54% have experienced physical violence at least once, and 15% have experienced sexual violence at least once. Violent discipline also appears to be common. Furthermore, and according to the UNICEF household survey conducted in 2016, 82% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, 77% of Palestinian refugees from Syria, and 57% of Lebanese children between 1 and 14 had experienced some form of psychological or physical punishment from a family member during the past month. In the same year, Himaya Association recorded approximately 1,742 cases of ill-treatment in the country.^{ix} In 2014, the General Assembly of the Lebanese Parliament passed Law No.293 entitled “Law to protect women and other family members from domestic violence.” Accordingly, a general prosecutor was appointed from public defenders in each of the six Lebanese governorates to receive complaints and investigate cases of violence. The Law also stipulated the establishment of specialized units for domestic violence within the local police stations in Lebanon to address the complaints. It defined the penalties to be imposed on violators, which included fines, imprisonment, and rehabilitation. It also allowed anyone witnessing domestic violence to report the incident to the authorities. Although women and children were able to obtain protection orders against aggressors, it only applied to children in the age of the mother's custody, which is set by religious courts in the absence of a civil personal status law. Thus, the determination to protect children through Law No.293 remains subject to the personal status codes of each particular sect and confession, meaning that children do not enjoy this right equally. The Law also neglected the situation of married minors subject to violence by

their husbands. Protection orders issued under this law are also temporary and depend on the outcome of criminal procedures filed by the victim before the competent courts. Therefore, children enjoy protection in accordance with the Law on the Protection of Juveniles in Violation of the Law or at Risk No.422/2002, as the basis of the child being exposed to any form of violence stipulated in Article 25. It also aims to reform the juvenile justice system by establishing juvenile courts that focus on education, habilitation and protection rather than punishment. However, several major gaps remain and need to be highlighted. They include the minimum age for criminal responsibility, grievance mechanisms, juvenile arrest procedures, criminal records, and legal procedures, among other issues. A draft reform of Law 293 was recently presented, based on the flaws that appeared in five years of implementation. It remains under discussion in the Joint Parliamentary Committees. It remains customary in Lebanon to place children in care centers, rather than working to enable households to secure and guarantee the child's right to grow in a family. Very few programs tend to target supporting child development in his or her nuclear or extended family. However, early September 2018 saw the first steps of the child family care project to avoid removing children from their nuclear families. The procedure will only be resorted to when necessary and will involve seeking help from the extended family or, if this is not possible, a reliable alternative family as stipulated by Law 422/2002 when the child is seriously at risk. In 2014, Paragraph 1 of Article 186 of the Lebanese Penal Code was amended to remove the exception provided by the previous text to disciplinary measures by teachers in schools. However, the amendment maintained the permissibility of non-violent disciplinary actions by parents against their children, provided the action does not have any effect on the child's body and does not cause any physical or psychological harm, despite the difficulty in identifying and pursuing psychological harm. In 2017, the Law to Combat Torture No.65/2017^x amended Article 401 of the Penal Code to make torture a crime involving acts that lead to extreme pain or physical or mental harm.

4.2. Recommendation 8: Repeal Article 186 of the Penal Code related to acceptable disciplinary measures by parents and set progressive measures against parent violators upon repetition.

Recommendation 9: Protect children from sexual exploitation, provide support to psychosocial rehabilitation programs for children victims of sexual abuse, and increase the punishment for aggressors.

Recommendation 10: Amend the Penal Code to remove the statute of limitations in crimes involving sexual violence against children.

Recommendation 11: Amend Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 33 of Law 422/2002 on Juveniles to standardize methods to review and appeal

decisions issued by the ordinary and the juvenile court to determine the penalty, so that the ruling issued by ordinary courts is referred immediately upon its issuance and before its enactment to the Juvenile Court to determine punishment and measures.

Recommendation 12: Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 7 to a minimum of 12 years.

Recommendation 13: Take into account the juvenile's age and psychological, mental, and physical condition when adopting disciplinary or protective measures.

Recommendation 14: Work to provide personnel specialized in dealing with minors in contact with the law, whether violators, witnesses, or victims.

Recommendation 15: Maintain contact between juveniles in conflict with the law and their families.

Recommendation 16: Provide health services for juveniles in conflict with the law.

4.3. Protecting children from early marriage: The proportion of marriage under 18 was 13% based on electoral lists for Lebanese and 22% for Syrian refugees based on UNHCR data.^{xi}

In the absence of a unified personal status law, the legal age of marriage in Lebanon remains subject to each confession's personal status code. Although some sects amended their age of marriage, most of the sects still recognize child marriage. Thus, child marriage remains legal, despite Lebanon's ratification of CEDAW and despite having no reservations on Paragraph 2 of Article 16, which does not recognize child marriage and clearly states that "[t]he 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."^{xii} Several CSOs have campaigned for a minimum age of marriage and a bill has been proposed to set it at a minimum of eighteen. However, the Lebanese state has not made any real efforts to advance the bill's consideration, in preparation for its approval. Although Article 522 of the Penal Code, which exempts perpetrators of sexual crimes from punishment in the event of marriage to the victim, was repealed on February 15, 2017, its effects remain in Article 505, which states that "if a valid marriage contract is concluded between the perpetrator and the victim, aged between 15 and 18, the persecution will stop." Furthermore, Article 518 of the Penal Code exempted from punishment those who seduce girls with the promise of marriage resulting in the loss of virginity.

Recommendation 17: Adopt a civil law that sets a minimum age for marriage and prohibits child marriage and that is applied on all Lebanese citizens and residents in the country without exceptions.

Recommendation 18: Adopt a law to criminalize early marriage outside religious and specialized courts to impose deterrent penalties on those responsible and take the necessary measures to protect girls, including

refugees, from early marriage.

Recommendation 19: Amend Articles 505 and 518 of the Lebanese Penal Code as follows: "(1) Sexual intercourse with a minor younger than 15 shall be punished by imprisonment for no less than five years; (2) The punishment shall not be less than seven years if the minor had not reached 12 years of age; (3) Sexual intercourse with a minor between 15 and 18 shall be punished by imprisonment for no less than three years."

- 4.4. Protection of children from involvement in armed conflicts:** The practice of recruiting and utilizing children by some Lebanese and Palestinian factions and parties continued. They exploit the children's need for protection and their economic and social situation, particularly extreme poverty, in the absence of the concept of human security and legal protection in Lebanon. To date, no law has been enacted to criminalize the involvement of children in armed conflict and many children in Lebanon remain victims of exploitation in wars and armed conflicts.

Recommendation 20: Take legal measures to prohibit and criminalize the involvement and recruitment of children and ban their participation in military tasks inside and outside Lebanon.

Recommendation 21: Provide care and rehabilitation for former child soldiers, especially Palestinian refugees, reintegrate them in society, and protect them from prosecution in military courts, in particular.

- 4.5. Protection of children (and women) victims of human trafficking:** On August 26, 2011, the Lebanese Parliament adopted Law No.164 to combat human trafficking, which improved legal protection for victims of trafficking. However, the Law has yet to stipulate that victims of trafficking, usually women, must not be treated as criminals and still requires them to provide evidence of their innocence without guarantee of their right to seek the legal process, which might require residency permits. The right to compensation must not be subject to conditions, as it is currently dependent on the confiscated assets of those convicted of trafficking. This is in addition to the lack of stringent measures to protect the victim's identity and provide medical assistance to minors, in addition to preventive measures to be taken by the government. Palestinian refugee victims still face criminal liability, as lack of responsibility is based on coercion, contrary to international standards in this field. Article 585 (8) states: "A victim who proves that he was compelled to commit acts that are punishable by law or that he was compelled to violate the terms of [his] residency or work [permit] shall be given amnesty from punishment." The absence of human security and lack of legal protection for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, in light of the policy of ostracization adopted by the Lebanese state, arbitrary measures against Palestinian refugees from Syria to Lebanon, and the exploitation of vulnerabilities related to their status, led to the emergence of new forms of trafficking, especially in women and children

4.6. Recommendation 22: The Lebanese State must reform Law 184/2011 to protect victims of human trafficking from Palestinian refugees from Syria, especially women and children, and drop their criminal responsibility, in line with international standards in this field.

Recommendation 23: Issue specific laws and decrees to ensure suitable protection and support for victims of human trafficking, especially children.

5. Child Labor: Article 32 of the CRC, to which Lebanon is a signatory, states that "States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development." With 30% of the population under the poverty line, child labor remains one of the main risks to children's physical and psychological development and health in Lebanon. During the International Conference on Child Labor held The Hague in 2010, the Lebanese State made a commitment to draft a national action plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labor before 2016 and, accordingly, adopted the plan through the Ministry of Labor. In reality, however, there is a steady rise in the number of working and street children, who are exposed to increasing risks, especially with the refugee crisis that pushed the numbers to unprecedented levels. Of the refugee children aged between 5 and 17, 5% were found to have worked for at least one day in the thirty days preceding the study on "Children Living and Working on the Streets in Lebanon," which also showed a discrepancy between tasks performed by boys, mainly economic, and girls, mostly household.^{xiii} In this context, the last official survey in 2003 recorded around 100,000 child workers. However, current estimates put the number at 180,000, indicating the absence of follow-up and planning.

Recommendation 24: The government must establish a socio-economic plan to combat poverty and criminalize the employment of children under 15.

Recommendation 25: Amend Article 22 of the Labor Code to consider the employment of children who had not yet completed 13 years of age a form of violence and take punitive measures against violators (parents/guardians).

6. Right to Education: The majority of children in Lebanon are enrolled in private schools.^{xiv} In 2018-2019, only 31% of students enrolled in public schools.^{xv} This is mainly due to the quality of education provided by the public sector, which suffers from poor infrastructure and unqualified educational staff especially in rural areas, in addition to the low success rate in intermediate exams,^{xvi} as a result of historically insufficient funding for public schools from the primary to the secondary levels. World Bank data from 2017 indicate that Lebanon spends around 2% of its GDP on public education, one of the lowest rates in the MENA region, with a part of the budget going to semi-free schools and private religious schools. Adding private family funding and government

subsidies to enroll in private schools, it reaches 4% of the GDP.^{xvii} This division between the public and private sectors has a detrimental effect on the provision of quality education to students in public schools, which face a shortage in necessary resources. The Syrian crisis and the continuing economic downturn in the country led to tensions in public schools. For the past two years, more students have moved to public schools due to rising private schools tuition fees at an average of US \$2,600 annually, partly due to Law No.46 of 2017, which forced an increase in teachers' wages.^{xviii} The mismanagement of the Syrian refugee situation impedes the access of all children to quality education. In the 2018-2019 academic year, 213,000 non-Lebanese students enrolled in public schools, which accommodated the additional numbers by establishing afternoon classes.^{xix} Despite this development, refugee children continue to face major obstacles to access to education, as 46% of Syrian refugee children are not enrolled in either public or private education. To address the situation, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education began the second phase of the 2017-2020 plan, which seeks to ensure access to public and non-public education to all children between 3 and 18.^{xx} To achieve this ambitious goal and respect Lebanon's obligations under CRC Article 28, more resources must be directed towards increasing refugee access to education. This is in addition to non-resource barriers, particularly harassment and bullying targeting refugee children in schools,^{xxi} language barriers in teaching, and the extra registration requirements imposed unilaterally by some schools. Furthermore, children with disabilities continue to face major resource and non-resource barriers in access to quality education. Lebanon has not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and although domestic Law 220/2000 prohibits schools from discriminating on the basis of disability, the definition of disability remains very narrow by excluding non-physical disabilities.^{xxii} The most important barrier relates to the lack of a systematic policy to integrate children with disabilities, including accessible schools, comprehensive curricula, and special education teachers.^{xxiii} One explanation is the paucity of statistics to inform policy making regarding children with disabilities. While only 8,858 children (ages 4 to 14) with disabilities have been registered, the World Bank, UNICEF, and WHO estimate that 5% of children (ages 4 to 14) suffer from a disability, meaning that Lebanon should have at least 45,000 children with disabilities enrolled in education.^{xxiv} This gap in identification and data collection and its corresponding impact on policy making corresponds to the fact that only 1% of children with disabilities are enrolled in regular public schools and 29% of Palestinian children with disabilities are not enrolled in any educational establishment. On the other hand, children with disabilities are often denied access to private schools or are asked to pay higher, discriminatory fees.^{xxv} Law 150/2011, amending Article 49 of Legislative Decree No.134 of 1959, provides for compulsory and free education for all children in Lebanon up to the primary level (from 6 to 15 years). Nevertheless, the Law's implementation has been hampered by the lack of cooperation between agencies, as a result of the failure to issue the necessary executive decrees defining the mandates of the relevant ministries. However, there is currently no process to compel families to send their children to school by law during the mandatory years,^{xxvi} which partly explains why primary school-aged children enrolment rates were at 84% in 2016.^{xxvii} However, an increase in

enrollment from kindergarten to seventh grade was noted between the academic years 2016/17 and 2017/2018, reaching 3% for Lebanese children and 13% for non-Lebanese children. An increase in children's access to education can be achieved through municipal-level interventions. However, municipalities are often unaware of their powers to oversee educational affairs under Article 47 of the municipal law, which can be used to address some reasons for not attending and dropping out, including contributing to educational materials expenses and providing free transportation to schools.

Recommendation 26: Increase the share of education in the state budget to at least concur with the increasing demand for enrollment in public schools.

Recommendation 27: Develop a national education strategy for the education of children with disabilities, with a focus on adapting schools accordingly, training more special education teachers, and review curricula to facilitate inclusive learning.

Recommendation 28: Amend Law 220/2000 to encompass non-physical disabilities.

Recommendation 29: Amend Law 150/2011 to encompass children of all nationalities and issue necessary measures to implement compulsory education.

7. **Right to Health:** Medical workers and government officials are warning that hospitals may soon be unable to provide life-saving surgery and emergency patient care due to the financial crisis.^{xxviii} In terms of vaccination of children and according to UNICEF, the rate of dropout from mandatory vaccines has surpassed 66% in Lebanon. A field study conducted by the Islamic Health Association in Bekaa, the South, and Beirut's Southern Suburbs indicated that 76% of children in those areas have dropped out of mandatory vaccination. The study showed that most parents stop following-up on mandatory vaccination when their children reach the age of 5. Children over five make up around 70% of total dropouts, although there are reminder doses at 10, 14, and 18 years of age that are more critical than the primary doses. Notably, most of those who dropped out did not receive the mandatory dual vaccine (against tetanus and croup).^{xxix} Palestinian refugees are denied access to government medical and hospitalization services. The Lebanese state does not provide free hospitalization for Palestinian refugees and Palestinian refugee workers are denied health benefits at the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), although they pay the same fees as Lebanese workers. In incident, a Palestinian child died after being denied service and a bed at a governmental hospital. The child had been sick for one and a half years and taken from one hospital to another in Saida and Tripoli. Attempts to transfer him to the public hospitals were made after he was transferred to Islamic Hospital, which lacked the intensive care needed to stop the bleeding before performing brain surgery.^{xxx} In 2018, UNHCR declared it had insufficient funds to provide medical treatment for 97 Syrian refugees living in Lebanon who cannot pay for their treatment. The agency provides a major part of the treatment of Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon for free through its partners. However, it is no

longer able to cover all hospital treatment costs to those with chronic diseases like cancer and renal failure.^{xxx}

Recommendation 30: Provide universal healthcare for all children.

Recommendation 31: Enact the universal health care card Law.

ⁱ During the Working Group session on 22 December 2015, Lebanon received 293 recommendations, two of which were rejected immediately as they were introduced by the state of Israel. Lebanon postponed the decision on the remaining recommendations until the 31st session of the HRW in March 2016, where Lebanon accepted 128 of the recommendations, rejected 91, and took note of the remaining.

ⁱⁱ This report's recommendations involved focus group discussions with 20 children, boys and girls between 13 and 17 years of age, and 30 mothers and fathers from various regions, sects, and confessions, and included Palestinian refugees, Syrian refugees, and Palestinian refugees from Syria.

ⁱⁱⁱ Signature on 11 February 2002, <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/research/ratification-lebanon.html>.

^{iv} <https://www.unhcr.org/lb/12040-yearly-un-study-syrian-refugees-in-lebanon-accumulated-more-debt-in-2018-than-ever-before.html>.

^v <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-48408663>.

^{vi} <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/05/24/lebanon-syrians-summarily-deported-airport>.

^{vii} <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/lebanon>.

^{viii} Al-Modon articles on the backdrop for the uprising: <https://bit.ly/3avVwu6> and <https://bit.ly/2WTS3I3>

^{ix} <https://www.annahar.com/article/830783-10852-أطفال-في-لبنان-معاملة-واستغلال-أطفال-في-لبنان>.

^x <http://www.legiliban.ul.edu.lb/LawArticles.aspx?LawTreeSectionID=286552&LawID=274003&language=ar>.

^{xi} <https://www.rdfwomen.org/archives/807>.

^{xii} <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cedaw.aspx>.

^{xiii} https://www.ilo.org/beirut/projects/WCMS_364141/lang--en/index.htm.

^{xiv} El-Kogali SET, "Expectations and Aspirations: A New Framework for Education in the Middle East and North Africa" (The World Bank, November 2018).

^{xv} <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/527931542039352771/pdf/Overview.pdf> [Accessed February 9, 2020],

^{xvi} El-Kogali, 2018, op. cit.

^{xvii} Race II (Reaching All Children with Education) (2020) <http://racepmlebanon.com/index.php/features-mainmenu-47/race2-article> [Accessed February 9, 2020].

^{xviii} Khawaja B, "'Growing Up Without an Education': Barriers to Education for Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon" (Human Rights Watch June 6, 2017) <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/07/19/growing-without-education/barriers-education-syrian-refugee-children-lebanon> [Accessed February 9, 2020].

^{xix} El-Kogali, 2018, op. cit.

^{xx} Ibid.

^{xxi} Khawaja, 2017, op. cit.

^{xxii} Combaz E, "Situation of persons with disabilities in Lebanon" (DFID, July 15, 2018)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b584da340f0b633af812655/Disability_in_Lebanon.pdf [Accessed 9 February 2020].

^{xxiii} Koplewicz S, "'I Would Like to Go to School': Barriers to Education for Children with Disabilities in Lebanon" (Human Rights Watch, April 2, 2018).

^{xxiv} Saliba I, "Constitutional Right to an Education: Lebanon" (Library of Congress, May 1, 2016)

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/constitutional-right-to-an-education/lebanon.php> [Accessed February 10, 2020].

^{xxv} El-Ghali, H., Ghalayini, N. and Ismail, G. (2016). Responding to Crisis: Syrian Refugee Education in Lebanon. [eBook] Beirut: American University of Beirut, p.3. Available at:

https://www.aub.edu.lb/ifi/Documents/publications/policy_briefs/2015-2016/20160406_responding_to_crisis.pdf [Accessed 10 Feb. 2020].

^{xxvi} Ceicdata.com. (2020). Lebanon Education Statistics. [online] Available at:

<https://www.ceicdata.com/en/lebanon/education-statistics> [Accessed 10 Feb. 2020].

^{xxvii} RACE II, 2020, op. cit.

^{xxviii} <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/12/10/lebanon-hospital-crisis-endangering-health>.

^{xxix} <https://al-akhbar.com/Community/261718>.

^{xxx} <https://www.annahar.com/article/916102-الطفل-محمد-يفارق-الحياة-بعد-رحلة-عذاب-اتهامات-بالتقصير-والأونروا-والصحة>-
توضيحان

^{xxxi} <https://www.infomigrants.net/ar/post/8420-مفوضية-اللاجئين-نقص-التمويل-يهدد-حياة-عشرات-اللاجئين-السوريين-المرضى-في-33-لبنان>.