

1. What measures have been taken to strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks for the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

- In September 2018, the Lebanese Council of Ministers approved and endorsed the National Action Plan on UNSCR1325 and NCLW is following up on its execution and implementation.
- The VAWG National Strategy was validated by the responsible ministries and public administrations in 2019.
- The General Directorate of the Internal Security Forces established in October 2019 the hotline 1745 to receive complaints about all forms of violence against women, noting that NCLW requested from the responsible ministries that this line be free of charge.
- The Attorney General responded to NCLW's request on April 2020 related to:
 - a quick response to domestic violence complaints without requiring complaints to be filed with the public prosecutor's office.
 - the hearing of domestic violence accounts over the phone or through video call especially for

survivors who are unable to appear in specialized courts.

- NCLW followed up on the law proposition to amend the Law 293/2014 on “Protecting Women and Other Family Members from Domestic Violence” and advocated, with Members of parliament, to amend the law 293/2014 as per the amendments prepared and registered at the Parliament by 10 MPs of different political blocks and aiming at enhancing the protection of women victims of domestic violence and their children.
- NCLW submitted a law proposition to amend the Nationality Law aiming at giving Lebanese women, married to foreign men the right to pass their nationality to their children. In this regard, a series of advocacy meetings were held with ministers and deputies.
- In March 2020, NCLW submitted to the head of Administration and Justice Parliamentarian Committee a proposal prepared in cooperation with AUB and World Bank to amend discriminatory articles of Labor Law, Penal Code, and Civil Servants Regulations and to criminalize sexual harassment.

٢. What actions and investments have been made for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women?

The World Bank is cooperating with the Government of Lebanon in the Mashreq Gender Facility program (2018-2022) provides technical assistance to Lebanon to enhance women's economic empowerment and opportunities. This initiative supports government-led efforts, country-level priorities and strategic regional activities that strengthen the enabling environment to identify and address constraints to women's economic participation and to improve women's access to economic opportunities.

٣. What steps have been taken to holster women's leadership and women's full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development?

- The Lebanese Presidency of the Council of Ministers has approved and endorsed in September 2019 the National Action Plan on UNSCR1325. The latter is being implemented by NCLW and it includes a core pillar / strategic objective on the participation of women at all levels of decision-making processes.

- In March 2020, 6 women ministers were appointed in the Lebanese Government which was comprised of 20 ministers.

ξ. What macroeconomic, labor and social policies have been put in place that promote full and productive employment and decent work for women, in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women's employment and economic rights and independence?

N/A.

- ο. What response and recovery measures to the COVID-19 pandemic have been taken to improve and expand social protection for women (e.g. healthcare coverage, unemployment benefits, paid sick leave, paid parental leave, maternity benefits, pensions, income support such as cash transfers)?
- The National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) requested the government to issue the necessary directives in order to make the families in which the father or the mother is Lebanese

benefit from the social assistance during COVID-19 pandemic.

- The National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) focused its effort to enhance the protection of women exposed to GBV. Those are the main initiatives taken in this regard:

-NCLW requested the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Affairs to establish a special fund aiming at assisting the victims of domestic violence.

-In response to NCLW's request, the Public Prosecutor at the Court of Cassation took measures to facilitate the access of abused women to justice.

-The President of the Supreme Judicial Council issued a circular to facilitate the submission of urgent requests before the Urgent Matters authority, especially in cases of domestic violence.

-Electronic court addresses were published, upon NCLW's submission of a proposal to the Minister of Justice for the issuance of directives aiming at accepting statements made by abused women over the phone.

-NCLW carried out coordination efforts by holding an extensive meeting with representatives of a number of civil society organizations managing shelters for women victims of violence, with the participation of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The aim was to identify the challenges faced in the field of securing protection for women from domestic violence, especially in light of the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and in order to coordinate the work between civil society organizations and government institutions and to define urgent, medium and long-term priorities, and to reduce the phenomenon of domestic violence and provide the necessary services to survivors of domestic violence.

7. What actions have been taken to expand the availability and affordability of care services to address the increase in unpaid care and domestic work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. care subsidies, paid leave)?

N/A.

V. What action has been taken to increase resources and support for women's and civil society organizations as they cope with the COVID-19 pandemic?

N/A.

Λ. What steps have been taken to improve gender-responsive data collection in the context of follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to track and monitor the gender-specific impacts and response measures to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- NCLW and UN agencies issued in February, March and April 2020 a newsletter on COVID-19 pandemic in Lebanon in which they proposed recommendations and solutions for a quick action from the different stakeholders and responsible parties.