

State of Palestine

*Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations
Geneva*



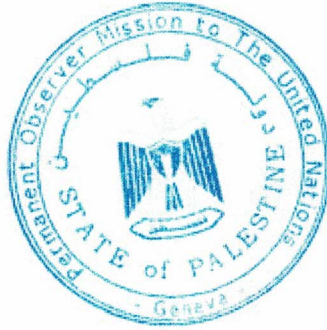
دولة فلسطين

البعثة المراقبة الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة
جنيف

Geneva 13 November 2023

The Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Rapporteur on the Right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health pursuant to HRC resolution 51/21 and has the honour to submit herewith the State of Palestine contributions to the questionnaire on the thematic “Drug Policies and responses: a right to health framework on harm reduction” .

The Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Rapporteur on the Right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health the assurances of its highest consideration.



Key Answers on the questioner of the response and policies on drug misuse treatment in the framework of the right to health as a human right

	Observer State
Name of State:	State of Palestine
Name of Survey Respondent:	Palestinian Ministry of Health, SUD treatment Unite
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Note: these answers based on the available data registered at the Substance Misuse treatment Unit at the Palestinian Ministry Of health

Key Answers:

1. Answer to Q1:

The Harm Reduction Policies and programs provided by the Ministry of Health are the following:

- Opioid Agonist treatment to PWUDs by Buprenorphine, Methadone and Naltrexone
- Regular screening tests to Infectious diseases related to Drug misuse (HIV. HCV. HbsAg and other related STDs and infections)
- `Syringes and needles distribution program.
- Naloxone Nasal Spray kit distribution to PWUDs and are at high risk of overdose
- GBV program against women who use drugs.
- Health education program to PWUDs and their families
- Pear to Pear support program
- School health education program for drug use prevention among the students and youth
- Medical and Health support program
- Drug misuse associated Mental Health disorders services and treatment
- Youth with SUD in the Juvenile Justice System
- Launching a Drug related emergencies treatment protocol and guidelines in the emergency rooms in hospitals

The aim of these programs and policies are the followings

- Connect individuals to overdose education, counselling, and referral to treatment for infectious diseases and substance use disorders.
- Distribute opioid overdose reversal medications (e.g., naloxone) to individuals at risk of overdose, or to those who are likely to respond to an overdose.
- Lessen harms associated with drug use and related behaviours that increase the risk of infectious diseases, including HIV, viral hepatitis, and bacterial and fungal infections.

- Reduce infectious disease transmission among people who use drugs (including those who inject drugs) by equipping them with sterile supplies, accurate information and facilitating referrals to resources.
- Reduce the number of alcohol and drug related road traffic accident injuries and deaths
- Reduce overdose deaths, promote linkages to care, facilitate co-location of services as part of a comprehensive, integrated approach.
- Provide good treatment to the cases with drug related emergencies in the hospitals.
- Reduce drug related complications and deaths.
- Qualified hospital team to deal with drug related emergencies
- Reduce stigma associated with substance use and co-occurring disorders.
- Promote a philosophy of hope and healing
- Reduce Harm for Patients with SUD
- Early detection of gender-based violence and management
- Develop practices for new treatment protocols and strategies
- Empowering women and raising their awareness in their right to treatment and other human rights
- Reducing STDs among women who use drugs
- Providing regular screening for HIV and viral infection and treatment to WWUDs.
- Early detection for GBV against WWUDs
- Encourage referral of women who are exposed to violence for treatment through the referral form
- Better outcome to the adolescents in the juvenile justice system
- Reducing drug use disorder among the youth especially those in the Juvenile justice system (JJS)
- Providing the adolescents in the JJS with Healthy life skills
- Raising the youth awareness in their right to treatment and other human rights
- Reduce the infectious diseases among the youth
- Stable mental health for the youth in the JJS
- To have Multisystemic Therapy (MST) family-based approaches

Good results were achieved by implementing these programs and some of these achievements are:

- Better outcome for SUD patients
- Reduce number of overdose cases
- Reducing and prevention of infectious diseases transmission
- Reduce gender-based violence against females with SUD
- Introducing new treatment strategies and protocol
- Update with new treatment protocol
- Good Qualified team in Hospitals and treatment centres.
- Reduce Drug and alcohol drug related injuries and deaths
- Better outcome for the youth in the Juvenile Justice system
- Raising wariness of school children and their families regarding drug harm

- Better outcome for school students

Regarding the Numbers we can say that out of 3000 Patients with SUD registered in our treatment centres almost 2400 Patients could benefit from the Harm Reduction services.

2. Answer to Q2:

Regarding the legal frameworks affects the harm reduction in a positive way the law helps the PWUDs and are with criminal justice conflict that led them to prison, they have the right to continue their treatment in prison and to be provided with all possible harm reduction programs and treatment, also in Palestine recently a policy paper for treating PWUDs inside prison was put and will be implemented ASAP, the challenges that we have are the lack of financial resources and lack of Human resources (Employees)

3. Answer to Q.3 .

Regarding the Discrimination and stigma regarding PWUDs it exists, but there are many activities done to raise the people awareness regarding Drug Misuse Disorders to be considered a disease and those category of patient to be accepted by the people in Palestine, and also these activities work to reduce stigma towards PWUDs and to integrate them in the Palestinian Society

4. Answer to Q 4

Harm reduction program provides drug use prevention services and activities among students and the youth through the school health program, youth program targeting the students and youth through extracurricular activities, also providing training to the school counsellors and teachers for early detection and primary prevention of drug use among school students

5. Answer to Q 5

- The existence of treatment centres for PWUDs, Palestinian National Rehabilitation Center PNRC in Bethlehem, Opioid Substitution therapy centre in Ramallah, 12 Opioid dispensing Stations in the West Bank
- The existence of the Drug Treatment policy paper for PWUDs in prison
- The Existence on National Committees on GBV, SUD treatment, Antinarcotic National Programs, SUD treatment of patients in prisons

6. Answer to Q 6

Yes, there are treatment facilities to PWUDs:

- Palestinian National Rehabilitation Center PNRC in Bethlehem.
- Opioid Substitution therapy centre in Ramallah.
- 12 Opioid Agonist distribution Stations in the West Bank
- In addition to Mental health clinics in the west bank districts

7. Harm reduction program and other programs are implemented in cooperation with several international organizations:

- UNODC
- Pompidou Group, MedNET – Council of Europe
- European Union for drug monitoring EU4MD
- EMCDDA European Centre for monitoring of drugs and drug addiction

The challenges are the lack of financial resources