**The National Center for Human Rights (NCHR) response to the Questionnaire on the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Access the Highest Attainable Standard of Health**

1. Jordan signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 30 March 2007, and ratified it on 31 March 2008. The Convention was then published in the National Gazette of Jordan no (5205) on 14/2/2013. Besides, Jordan signed but not ratified its Optional Protocol on 30/3/2007.
2. The Constitution: The Jordanian Constitution protected the family and children rights. Article 6 paragraph 4 states that: “The family is the basis of society the core of which shall be religion, morals and patriotism; the law shall preserve its legitimate entity and strengthen its ties and values.”
3. Moreover, PWDs are protected under paragraph (6) of the same Article which stipulates that: “The law shall protect motherhood, childhood and the old-aged; and shall take care for the youngsters and those with disabilities and protect them against abuse and exploitation.”
4. The Jordanian Constitution safeguarded the rights to life and  [criminalized all](http://context.reverso.net/translation/english-arabic/classifies%2Ball) forms of physical [assault against](http://context.reverso.net/translation/english-arabic/assault%2Bagainst) it. Article 7 provides for the inherent right to life on equal basis.
5. The legislation: Articles (23 and 24) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities no (20) for the year 2017, provide protection for PWDs as they prescribe all the procedures relating to the PWDs health, staring from how to access health insurance, early detection, diagnosis and assessment of disability; the nutritional and medical programs, access to health facilities, training for medical personnel on how to communicate with persons with disabilities to obtain their free and informed consent, in addition to the provision of physical and occupational therapy, and how to detect and address violence against PWDS.
6. There is still a need to promote awareness of the Law among all bodies concerned with the health of PWDs as well as to ensure their full compliance to the Law.

**Policies:**

* In 2017, the Ministry of Social Development has developed a strategic plan 2017-2021. The Strategic Plans aims to develop social services in the social, development and voluntary sector for PWDs as well as to incorporate the SDG 2030 into them.
* The Ministry of Social Development, in cooperation with the National Center for "Human rights has started the implementing of Article (27-C/1-2) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities no (20) for the year 2017 which provides for the development of a comprehensive and inclusive national plan to integrate PWDs and their families and offers solutions and alternatives.
* On 5/ April/ 2017 the Council of Minister decided to grant allowance for workers in the residential care home for persons with disabilities affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development, in addition to 50% increase in the basic salary for health personnel in all centers and residential care home for persons with disabilities.

**Practices:**

* There are three centers for the early detection of childhood disability. There is one in the Capital Amman affiliated to the Ministry of Health, the second located in the Southern region of the Kingdom affiliated to the Projects of His Royal Highness Prince Raad Ben Zeid, while the third one is affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development and administered by medical cadres from the Ministry of Health. These Centers aim at reducing consequences of disability. However, the total number of beneficiaries is low comparing to their estimated total number of PWDs. Due to their low number, many of the PWDs in places far ways of these centers have trouble accessing their services.
* There is Weakness of some diagnostic services. The Ministry of Health provides health insurance for all PWDs.
* There is ignorance of the rights of PWDs among the medical cadres.
* There are a limited number of physical therapists for PWDs, especially in remote and rural areas.
* The negligence of families of PWDs in following up the conditions of their children in residential care home for persons with disabilities affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development. They do not visit their children on regular basis, and evade their responsibilities towards them by changing their places of residence and their contact details, in addition to not responding to the calls of social workers.  These families consider PWD as a stigma and burden on them.

- The weakness of the voluntary work by civil society organizations and the youth in the provision of care for PWDs or in participating in recreation activities.

- The infrastructure of some public and private bodies lack sanitary facilities and reasonable accommodations for PWDs.

- The low quality of rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities, the lack of public physiotherapy centers, and rehabilitation services for autistic persons. In addition the low level of awareness among PWDs themselves, their families, and those employed in institutions providing care for PWDs of the importance of rehabilitation.

2- All PWDs have health issuance and can benefit from the (14) health directorates, the (1140) health centers, which are distributed as follows: (380 primary health center, 194 sub-centers, 464 maternity center, 104 hospitals, and the 23 clinics affiliated to the Motherhood and Children Association which provide reproductive health services and supported by the Ministry of Health).

- The Ministry of Health carries out activities to prevent and control transmissible diseases through the following health directorates: The Epidemiological Monitoring Section, Vaccinations Section, Infection Control Section, Sexually Transmitted Disease Section, Parasitic Diseases Section, Data Analysis Section, and Follow up Section.

- The NCHR recommends that the number of the early disability detection centers should be increased taking into account their equitable geographical distribution in the Kingdom in order to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to their services.

**3- Practices:**

* There is no discrimination in health care delivery for PWDs.
1. The public Health Act grantees the rights to free and informed consent of persons with disabilities prior to any treatment or surgical intervention. For individuals placed under guardianship, the Law provides that the guardian shall be fully informed about the treatment and consent to it on the person’s behalf.
* The legislator provided for the definition of the free and informed consent and the reasonable accommodation in Article (2) of the Rights of Disabled Persons Law Number 20 of 2017 as follows as: “ The free and informed consent is the alteration of the environment or time-related conditions within a specific context of: The agreement or acceptance of a person with a disability or his/her legal reprehensive of every action, procedure, or legal measure to be taken regarding their rights or freedoms after being notified, in a way that he or she understands of the content, results, and impacts thereof. While it defines the Reasonable Accommodation as: “The alteration of the environment or time-related conditions within a specific context of time or place to enable the person with a disability to practice a right and freedom or to gain access to services on an equal basis with others”.
* The Jordanian medical constitution stipulates that physicians are subject to liability in the event of any medical error that affects the personal integrity.
* The Jordanian laws do not allow abortion except in exceptional circumstances set in the law in order to protect the personal integrity, and provide for aggravated penalties against those found guilty of committing medial errors, including medical experiments that affect lives.
* The Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities held many training workshops on the Rights of Disabled Persons Law Number 20 of 2017 that also targeted local communities in all the Kingdom’s governorates.
* A national campaign has been organized on prohibiting performing a hysterectomy on women with mental disabilities. The campaign targeted (455) families of women with mental disabilities.
* There are many civil society organizations involved in advocating the rights of PWDs as well as monitoring and following up the implementation of these rights.
* The Ministry of Health provided mental health facilities in addition to the Psychiatric hospital beds.

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1. PWDs and their representative organizations are not sufficiently integrated in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and project. This is because they are underrepresented and they are far away from centers of decision-making.