**The Kingdom’s response to the questionnaire entitled “Violence and its impact on the right to health”**

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| **S.N.** | **Question** | **Answer** |
| 1 | 1. Please describe, share data and information on the characteristics, number of cases, and the profile of victims and perpetrators in your country/ies or region(s) regarding:    1. gender based violence against women    2. gender based violence and other forms of violence against children:    3. gender based violence against LGBTI or other persons based on real or imputed sexual orientation, sex characteristics, and gender identity:    4. violence against persons with disabilities, including GBV.    5. gender based violence against men    6. conflict gender based violence, including sexual violence    7. Please share analysis and available evidence on the impact of COVID on the above | * KSA’s laws criminalize all kinds of violence, including violence against women, children, persons with disabilities, and sexual violence, through the Protection from Abuse Law and the Child Protection Law, which constitute a legal fence to protect all members of society against all forms of violence, as an example for that is what mentioned in the Protection from Abuse Law which obligates anyone who witnesses an abuse case to report it immediately, and obligates the employee who is aware of an abuse case to report his employer immediately, and his employer shall report the abuse case to the competent authority or the police immediately. * In order to strengthen the mechanisms for receiving violence related complaints, the complaints center was operated on March 20, 2016, which operates 24/7, to receive all abuse complaints via a unified number (1919), which responsible for completing the necessary procedures, assist victims, and refer those against whom there is sufficient evidence of committing an abuse crime to the Public Prosecution to complete the legal procedures in accordance with the provisions of the Protection from Abuse Law. During the period (2016-October 2020): (108,590) complaints of various forms of abuse, including neglect, psychological, physical, verbal and other abuse, were received by the center. |
| 2. | 1. Please describe whether the legal framework prohibits and sanctions these forms of violence and the definitions and forms of violence included in the legal system. Please explain redress options for survivors of violence, (the pathway they go through if they decide to file a complaint), levels of impunity and if access to comprehensive physical and mental care for GBV-survivors is recognized as a form of reparation. | * The Basic Law of Governance includes basic principles and provisions aimed at promoting and protecting human rights. In their entirety, such principles and provisions represent the legal framework for human rights. Article (26) of the Basic Law of Governance states: “The State shall protect human rights in accordance with Sharia”, the Basic Law also emphasized a number of basic rights, including: the right to justice and equality, where Article (8) states: “Governance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall be based on justice, shura, and equality in accordance with Sharia”. For the litigation right and equality before courts, Article (47) states: “The right of litigation shall be guaranteed equally to citizens and residents in the Kingdom”. * The Protection from Abuse Law and the Child Protection Law constitute a legal fence to protect all members of society against all forms of violence, and the issuance of the Anti-Harassment Law under Royal Decree No. (M/96) dated 16/09/1439 AH, is a consolidation of these legal foundations. * There are also supervisory and judicial redress mechanisms applicable and available to all without discrimination, which aims to ensure protection from violence, and provision of health and legal assistance and reparation, and that there is no impunity for perpetrators. Any person who has been subjected to any human rights violation has the right to resort to redress, whether governmental and non-governmental redress that undertake oversight roles, such as the Human Rights Commission, the relevant civil society institutions, and the judiciary entities, including the general courts, administrative courts, the Public Prosecution and etc. Article (47) of the Basic Law of Governance states: “The right of litigation shall be guaranteed equally to citizens and residents in the Kingdom. The law shall set forth the procedures required therefor”. The Public Prosecution Office, in accordance with Article (17) of the Law of Criminal Procedures, institutes criminal cases and investigates crimes in which individuals have a private right, if it deems a public interest. * The National Family Safety Program, which was established by the High Order No. 11471/MB dated 18 November 2005, is a national program aims to protect the family from violence, by monitoring and studying abuse cases, reporting the competent authorities in this field, and raising awareness of the harms of violence. King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue represents a cultural and national dialogue umbrella that works within the ecosystem of state and civil society institutions. It has held many national events that dealt with human rights issues, their role in promoting social and national cohesion, and the family role in protecting children from violence. |
| 3. | 1. Please share information on the health and other type of responses provided by the State and/or other actors in your country/ies or regions in focus to survivors of each/some of the aforementioned forms of violence. Please assess what works well and not so well, and whether COVID-19 impacted the response and how. | * Issuance of the High Order No. 27808 dated on March 15, 2017, to study domestic violence cases and the best procedures to address cases related to guardianship and custody, the main points of which is:   Reviewing the relevant regulations, proposing appropriate amendments to them, developing awareness-raising guidance blog on issues of domestic violence in general, custody and other related issues, and organizing a number of programs for judges in all regions of the Kingdom, with the participation of the relevant authorities.   * The issuance of the High Order No. 25803 dated on February 15, 2018 regarding providing human rights assistance to women and children in cases of abuse. The Order included also directing MHRSD in coordination with the Saudi Bar Association to obtain a periodic list of the names and addresses of donor lawyers to submit Legal aid and cooperation with them. |
| 4. | 1. Please specify the budget allocated in your country/ies in focus, to health related response to survivors of all/some forms of violence mentioned above. Please indicate the percentage of the national budget devoted to this; the percentage of the international aid provided or received for this. Please explain the impact of Covid 19 to the funding of responses to all/some forms of violence in your State/institution. | KSA is keen to allocate a large percentage of its annual budget to protection from violence, through provide allocations to government agencies directly related to this field, MOH, MHRSD, and HRC and others. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for verifying good disbursement of the allocated budget to ensure the benefit of the concerned groups, including women, children and people with disabilities. It should also be noted that it is difficult to determine the resources spent on protection from all kinds of violence, because the budget development approach depends on general items that include all segments of society. The government agencies concerned with protection from violence review aspects of financial spending on supervised sectors, including the sector of protection from forms violence and abuse, identify aspects that need to spend increase, and review this with MOF upon annual budget discussion. |
| 5. | 1. Please describe the needs of survivors of the abovementioned forms of violence as identified by your State/institution. Please share survivor-self identified needs and those of their families, with a focus on health emergency and long-term needs. | * The Kingdom's regulations guarantee the healthcare right for all, including victims of violence or abuse, as Article (2) of the health Law states: "This law aims to ensure the provision and regulation of comprehensive and integrated healthcare, to all the population, in a fair and accessible manner". Article (3) of the same Law states: “the state shall provide healthcare and responsible for the community public health, ensuring living in a healthy and safe environment”. Article (4) of the law emphasized the provision of healthcare services to citizens and their coverage for all segments of society, emergencies, disasters, infectious and epidemic diseases, incurable diseases, and mental health”. Also, clause (1) of Paragraph (First) of the Executive Regulations of the Private Health Institutions Law also obligated private health institutions to receive any emergency cases through emergency departments. These above texts show the obligation to provide healthcare in all circumstances, including cases of abuse. * A circular was issued by the Minister of Health approving the regulation of dealing with violence and abuse cases within health institutions to monitor and track violence, abuse and neglect cases and professional dealing with them, and open communication channels with the relevant authorities to provide the necessary protection, care and assistance in providing the necessary health, psychological or social care, and providing database to be used in studies, research and programs related to violence and mitigation ways. Committees and teams of specialists were formed in health institution to carry out the tasks and roles required towards violence and abuse cases. * A decision also was issued by the Saudi Health Council approving the document of the mechanism for dealing with child abuse and domestic violence cases to encourage investigation of abuse and violence cases against children in health institutions, and adopting the appropriate mechanism to deal with these cases and coordinating between the roles and procedures of the relevant authorities to take the necessary measures for prevention and treatment. * The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the concerned authorities and human rights institutions, trains health practitioners in emergency departments in hospitals to deal with violence cases, including doctors, nurses and technicians, to enable them to determine the physical damage resulted from torture, violence and ill-treatment. * A ministerial decision was issued obligating reporting domestic violence cases, including violence against children within the health sector, which contributes directly to monitoring cases and making all preventive and remedial efforts. * Circular No. 24/1149/165327 issued by the Ministry of Health dated 15 December 2004, regarding the formation of protection committees in all health institutions in the various regions of the Kingdom. |
| 6. | 1. Please share examples of good practices and examples of comprehensive health responses to survivors of violence and indicate efficient multi-sectorial efforts at the community, national, regional and international levels by State or non-State actors. | * Children Advisory Committee was established under the Family Affairs Council, consisting of several members of children. The committee responsible for achieving several goals, including: children rights awareness raising, promoting children participation in expressing their issues at the internal and external levels, expressing their opinion about strategic childhood issues and possible solutions, contributing to policy and decision making, providing children with effective dialogue and communication skills and accepting the other opinion, and introducing them to their rights and how to express and disseminate them. Children members work on identifying important and purposeful topics and issues that need to be discussed and provide proposals to be presented to the Family Affairs Council through the Childhood Committee. A workshop was presented for children on child regulations and agreements in cooperation with UNICEF, as well as a workshop on dialogue and communication in cooperation with the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue. * For international cooperation, a series of virtual awareness sessions and seminars were launched in partnership with the Family Safety Program and UNICEF, which included a number of topics: * Child health and nutrition * Child protection. * Mental health during the pandemic. * Return to education safely. * Children and the Internet. * Active parenting.   + Preparing a guideline for protecting children rights during the COVID-19 pandemic in cooperation with UNICEF, which aims to support child protection practitioners to better response to child protection risks during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It includes potential child protection risks, and program options in line with the minimum standards for child protection within the framework of humanitarian actions issued in 2019, and the points contained in the child protection document during the spread of infectious diseases.   + The first childhood forum entitled “Childhood and COVID-19 Pandemic” was launched on World Children’s Day, which aims to raise awareness of the child, parents, educators and caregivers who deal and interact with children about the core principles and concepts contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and linking them to the needs and requirements of children during COVID-19 pandemic to come up with recommendations for future activities of the Committee Childhood.   + A free and unified phone line (116111) was established to support and help children under 18 years, and aims to receive complaints related to children subjected to any kind of abuse, neglect and exploitation, whether at home, school, neighborhood, public places, government or private institutions, and etc., and provides immediate and specialized advice to children. The Child Helpline has obtained membership in the (Child Helpline International) organization. |