



# Disability Assessment and Determination in the Arab Region Legal Country Profiles



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Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/CL4.SIT/2020/TP.9  
21 October 2020  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

# **Disability Assessment and Determination in the Arab Region Legal Country Profiles**



**United Nations**  
Beirut

20-00387

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United Nations publication issued by ESCWA, United Nations House, Riad El Solh Square, P.O. Box: 11-8575, Beirut, Lebanon.

Website: [www.unescwa.org](http://www.unescwa.org).

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## Introduction

Since the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD) was adopted in 2006, the field of disability policy has undergone a paradigm shift from a medical approach, focused on the individual and their condition, to understanding disability from a human rights perspective that takes into account the impact of the environment on an individual's specific condition. Under a human rights perspective, disability is the result of the interaction between an individual condition and the surrounding social and physical environment.

Most Arab countries have signed or ratified [CRPD](#) and have committed to changing their laws and institutional frameworks to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in all facets of life.<sup>1</sup>

While progress has been made in several policy areas such as national disability strategies and disability laws, one core policy area remains elusive so far: adopting a disability assessment and determination system that conforms with the [CRPD](#)'s human rights-based approach.

This has been a challenge for two reasons. First, the current understanding and also sometimes definitions of disability are still based on a medical understanding of disability and require a conceptual shift that has not fully materialized yet. Second, countries face technical challenges depending on their unique socioeconomic context, geographic make-up, and governing institutional structures.

This report aims to provide an overview of national legislation, regulations, administrative orders, and policies governing the disability assessment and determination processes in 18 Arab countries, namely, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

The laws presented in this paper are only one piece of a larger and multilayered process for disability assessment. Legal frameworks are necessary, but not sufficient, to ensuring a [CRPD](#)-compliant disability assessment and determination process.

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<sup>1</sup> ESCWA, [Disability in the Arab Region](#), 2018, p. 28.

## Methodology

This paper is based on compiling information on existing laws, regulations and administrative orders related to disability assessment and determination in 18 Arab countries, relying on the results of two questionnaires sent to governmental focal points, the first conducted in October 2019 and a follow-up questionnaire with specific clarifying questions conducted in September 2020. In addition, it relies on the presentations and discussions of the fourth meeting of the Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability (IGED-4) held by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Cairo on 14 and 15 December 2019.

To allow for a consistent and systematic overview, the same set of questions was addressed to all countries along five main themes: (1) definition of disability; (2) custodian agency for disability assessment; (3) disability assessment system, to evaluate the medical versus social approach to assessment, including assessments related to education, employment and disability pensions; (4) disability card; (5) disability database or registry.

The following should be noted:

- Where information was missing or unclear, it is stated as such;
- While the United Nations' approved expression in this context is 'persons with disabilities', the term 'disabled' was kept in this document in instances where it is part of an official or legal name of a law, institution or service, as it cannot be modified.



## Outline adopted for country profiles

Definition of disability.

- (a) What is the definition?
- (b) Is it consistent across national and local levels?

Custodian agency for disability assessment.

- (a) Who leads the disability assessment process?
- (b) If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?
- (c) Is there an appeals process?

Disability assessment system.

- (a) How is disability assessed?
- (b) Is there a separate assessment process for children?
- (c) Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?
- (d) Is there a separate assessment process for education?
- (e) Is there a separate assessment process for employment?

Disability card.

- (a) Does the country issue disability cards?
- (b) Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?
- (c) Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?

Disability database/registry.

- (a) Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?
- (b) Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?
- (c) Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?

## Legal country profiles

### Bahrain

#### 1. Definition of disability

##### (a) What is the definition?

Bahrain's Law No. 74 of 2006 on the Welfare, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities defines a person with a disability as "a person who suffers from a deficiency in some of their physical, sensory or intellectual capabilities as a result of an illness, accident or inherited factor, which has led to partial or total loss of their ability to work, continue to work or be promoted at work and has weakened their ability to perform other major life activities, and who is in need of care and rehabilitation to integrate them or re-integrate them in society".<sup>2</sup>

Bahrain's report submitted in 2017 to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>3</sup> mentioned that the country has drafted a bill to redefine disability to comply with the [United Nations CRPD](#), however, the bill has not been passed yet.

##### (b) Is it consistent across national and local levels?

Yes.

#### 2. Custodian agency for disability assessment

##### (a) Who leads the disability assessment process?

The Disability Assessment Committee leads the disability assessment process in Bahrain and approves the assessment report that states the type and degree of disability.<sup>4</sup>

##### (b) If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?

Per article 1 of [Decision No. 50 of 2010](#) by the Minister of Labour and Social Development, the Disability Assessment Committee is chaired by the Undersecretary for Care and Social Rehabilitation at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. It is composed by the following members:

- (i) Three representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, one of whom is the Deputy Chair;

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<sup>2</sup> Article 1 of [Law No. 74 of 2006 on the Welfare, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities \(Arabic\)](#), as last updated on 14 February 2017, Bahrain.

<sup>3</sup> [Bahrain's State Party Report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2017](#), para. 40.

<sup>4</sup> [Decision No. 50 of 2019 on Establishing the Disability Assessment Committee \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Bahrain.

- (ii) Three specialized doctors nominated by the Minister of Health to represent the Ministry;
- (iii) A representative from the Ministry of Education;
- (iv) A representative from the Arab Gulf University;
- (v) A representative from the University of Bahrain;
- (vi) A representative from the Higher Committee for the Disabled.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes. Per the internal regulations of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, applicants have the right to submit a grievance and appeal request, with the supporting documents, within 30 days of being notified of the decision made by the Disability Assessment Committee.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

The Disability Assessment Committee is mandated, per [Decision No. 50 of 2010](#), with the following tasks:

- (i) Review the medical, educational, psychological, and rehabilitation assessment reports for persons with disabilities periodically and prepare relevant technical reports;
- (ii) Standardize the psychological tests for assessing intellectual capabilities, educational and behavioural disorders of persons with disabilities and prepare technical reports on the results of these assessments;
- (iii) Coordinate with the Ministry of Health on the process of diagnosis and determination of the kind and level of disabilities and support early diagnosis for children;
- (iv) Coordinate with the Ministry of Education to integrate persons with disabilities in the public-school system, while considering their educational, behavioural and psychological needs.

The Ministry of Health administers the medical assessment, and the Ministry of Education administers the educational assessment and sends the assessments to the Disability Assessment Committee, which issues its final assessment to the applicant and submits it to the Ministry of Labour and Social Development for authentication. The Committee also has the prerogative to solicit expert opinion from any relevant experts or specialists. This is the process for registering with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development in order to receive the services and benefits the Ministry offers. To enrol in education or employment, there are other assessment processes conducted by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, respectively.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

It depends on the service; the Ministry of Education does the assessment for schools, for example.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Yes, the assessment for the disability pension is conducted by designated medical committees at the Ministry of Health. The pension fund does not rely on the disability assessment conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

The Ministry of Education conducts its own assessment process to enrol students in special education programmes and inclusive public schools. The assessment and enrolment processes depend on the type of disability, as there are different streams for visual, auditory, intellectual, and mobility disabilities, as well as autism and other learning difficulties. For each programme, the process is slightly different, but, in general, it involves a medical assessment, psychological assessment, IQ or intellectual abilities test, and other assessments based on the programme. The Ministry has a directory of schools that are inclusive and equipped to teach students based on their support needs.<sup>5</sup>

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

The Career Empowerment Programme for Persons with Disabilities,<sup>6</sup> launched by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, allows the applicant to apply online and set up an appointment for an assessment interview, which determines whether their application moves forward or not. During the assessment process, the applicant's information is verified, their social, intellectual, physical, and professional skills and abilities are assessed, and the type of occupations that the applicant can pursue are identified. The next phase involves training, job-matching and follow-up.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development issues disability ID cards, carrying the disability symbol.

(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

No, the card is not issued for a temporary disability because a disability must be permanent to be classified as a 'disability' according to [Law No. 74 of 2006](#).

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<sup>5</sup> Details can be found on the [Special Education Unit, Ministry of Education \(Arabic\)](#), Bahrain.

<sup>6</sup> [Career Empowerment Programme for Persons with Disabilities \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Bahrain.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

To issue the card, the applicant must be registered in the Ministry's database as a person with a disability, which implies that they have gone through the assessment process undertaken by the Disability Assessment Committee described above.

#### 5. *Disability database/registry*

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Yes, the Ministry of Social Development maintains a database of persons with disabilities who have registered to access their services. The database is digital and linked to the person's national ID number.

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

Yes.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Yes, the disability database is linked automatically with the Information & eGovernment Authority and with all government and service agencies. All agencies can view the information, but not all have access to enter or edit data, and there is continuous coordination to exchange data and information among government agencies.

## Egypt

### 1. *Definition of disability*

(a) *What is the definition?*

Egypt's Law No. 10 of 2018 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities defines persons with disabilities as “every person with a partial or total impairment or limitation in their physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory abilities, if this impairment or limitation is stable, which prevents them, when interacting with various barriers, from participating fully and effectively in society on an equal basis with others”.<sup>7</sup>

(b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Yes.

### 2. *Custodian agency for disability assessment*

(a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

The process to verify medical reports differs depending on whether the report is issued from a public or private hospital. Article 5 of the Executive Regulations of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>8</sup> and its subsequent March 2020 amendment<sup>9</sup> outline these processes.

Firstly, for public, military, police, or university hospitals, the medical assessment report can be certified by the Specialized Medical Tripartite Committee at each hospital. The president of the hospital has the prerogative to create this Committee and set up its by-laws, and the Committee can bring in any external expertise needed.

Secondly, medical assessment reports issued by private hospitals must be reviewed and certified by local rehabilitation centres; if there are doubts regarding their reliability, a new medical examination is requested at a public, police or military hospital to verify the initial assessment.

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<sup>7</sup> Article 2 of [Law No. 10 of 2018 Promulgating the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(Arabic\)](#), Egypt.

<sup>8</sup> [Executive Regulations of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(Arabic\)](#) (Prime Minister Decision No. 2733 of 2018), Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> “[The Council of Ministers agrees on passing an amendment of some provisions of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)” (Arabic), Shorouk News, 4 March 2020, Egypt.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes. Per article 12 of the Executive Regulations, the applicant or their representative can appeal the decision of the Committee online, by email or in person (no specific timeline is specified).

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

The disability assessment and determination process is outlined in the [Executive Regulations of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), which were issued by the Prime Minister Decision No. 2733 of 2018.

Article 2 of the Executive Regulations states that disability is determined through two phases:

*Phase 1 - medical assessment:* The medical assessment was restricted to public, police or military hospitals and medical committees. But an amendment was made on 4 March 2020<sup>10</sup> to allow persons with disabilities to conduct the medical examination in both private or public hospitals to facilitate the process. Per the amendment, rehabilitation centres have the authority to verify medical assessments made in a private hospital and request a new medical examination in a public, police or military hospital if there are doubts regarding its reliability.

*Phase 2 - functional assessment:* This assessment aims to assess the applicant's functional difficulties in performing daily activities as a result of an impairment or medical problem. The functional assessment covers all the following domains: mobility, hearing and language, vision, learning, communication and engagement, and self-care.<sup>11</sup>

Article 3 of the Executive Regulations states that, based on the medical and functional assessment, disability is rated on three levels:

*Level one:* The person faces difficulties performing basic activities but can perform them without assistance.

*Level two:* The person faces difficulties performing basic activities but can perform them with assistance.

*Level three:* The person faces difficulties performing basic activities and cannot perform them even with assistance.

Article 4 of the Executive Regulations lays out the types of disabilities in the assessment process, which include: (i) mobility; (ii) vision; (iii) hearing; (iv) intellectual; (v) autism spectrum disorder; (vi) communication disorders; (vii) attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); (viii) learning

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> The functional assessment is available at 220 rehabilitation centres in 27 governorates across Egypt. A social worker or mental health expert must perform the assessment under the supervision and coordination of the office manager ([Report of the fourth meeting of ESCWA's Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability](#) (IGED-4), Cairo, 14-15 December 2019).

disabilities; (ix) emotional or psychiatric disorders; (x) multiple disabilities; (xi) visual-hearing disability; (xii) blood diseases; and (xiii) heart diseases.<sup>12</sup>

Article 6 of the Executive Regulations states that the standards outlined in the regulations shall constitute the national reference for disability assessment and determination and provision of services.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

The same medical assessment form is used for children and adults, but the functional assessment form has three versions: children 0-6 years old; children 6-18 years old; and adults 18 years and older.<sup>13</sup>

For educational assessments see below.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Unclear.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

Yes. Article 22 of the Executive Regulations states that an Educational Assessment Committee shall establish the standards and methods for assessing students with disabilities and review these standards every year. The Committee members include the following:

- (i) A representative from the Ministry of Higher Education nominated by the Minister;
- (ii) A Representative from the Ministry of Social Solidarity nominated by the Minister;
- (iii) A Representative from the Ministry of Health nominated by the Minister;
- (iv) Two representatives from the Al-Azhar al-Sharif (one from the Azhari Institute, and one from the University of Al-Azhar) nominated by the Azhar Sheikh;
- (v) A representative from the National Council for Persons with Disabilities nominated by the Chair of the Council;
- (vi) A representative from the National Authority for Quality Assurance of Education, nominated by the Chair of the Board of Directors;
- (vii) A representative from the National Exam and Educational Assessment Centre, nominated by the Director of the Centre;

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<sup>12</sup> The assessment process evaluates the extent to which these listed impairments, diseases or disorders impact a person's functions and ability to perform daily activities; so, having a medical diagnosis does not automatically translate into obtaining a disability card.

<sup>13</sup> [Report of the fourth meeting of ESCWA's Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability \(IGED-4\)](#), Cairo, 14-15 December 2019.



- (viii) A representative from non-governmental organizations working on disability, nominated by the Minister of Social Solidarity;
- (ix) Two disability experts, nominated by the Prime Minister, and the Committee can bring in any other relevant expert for consultations.

Article 24 of the Executive Regulations lists the specific criteria for enrolling students with disabilities in inclusive classrooms based on their disability type. It states that all students with mobility disabilities must be accepted, including those with cerebral palsy. Students with hearing disabilities are accepted if their hearing loss does not exceed 70 dB using assistive devices. Students with intellectual disabilities are also enrolled in inclusive classrooms based on their IQ results (specific IQ scores are listed in detail).

Article 26 of the Executive Regulations states that another tripartite committee shall be established to assess medical reports and identify the reasonable accommodations a student needs in their inclusive school. This tripartite committee is chaired by a representative of the Ministry of Education and comprises as members a representative from the Special Education Unit, at the Ministry of Education, and a representative from the Ministry of Health.

Article 30 of the Executive Regulations states that if students with disabilities want to enrol in special education schools or institutions, they must be registered with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and must have a disability card.

Articles 20 to 44 of the Executive Regulations have elaborate details on the percentages and quotas to enrol students with disabilities in various educational levels (kindergarten, primary, middle, high school, and higher education) based on disability type, and based on the type of school, mainstream/special education and so on.

*(e) Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Article 50 of the Executive Regulations outlines the steps to obtain a qualification certificate which assesses the applicant's professional and vocational capacities. To obtain this certificate, applicants undergo an assessment process that can be initiated on the phone, online or by visiting a rehabilitation centre under the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

The required documentation includes a medical or assessment report, three recent photos, a copy of the latest educational qualification, and a copy of the exemption from conscription certificate.

The applicant or their representative can submit these documents with their application to the nearest social rehabilitation office, where the following actions are taken:

- (i) The social worker or specialist fills the section for social assessment;
- (ii) The vocational specialist assesses the applicant's skills if they have an intellectual disability. The applicant is also required to undergo an IQ test, which can be conducted at any public hospital, or by a psychologist in the Centre for Psychological Support under the Rehabilitation Directorate at the Ministry of Social Solidarity;

- (iii) The vocational specialist assesses the applicant's skills if they have an educational qualification. If the applicant has no educational qualification, the specialist must fill the section related to the assessment of their vocational skills. Based on the results of this assessment, the following next steps are then determined:
- If the applicant has skills that qualify them for a certain job, they are granted a qualification certificate stating this job, without the need for further training;
  - If the applicant has no vocational skills and is not qualified for any job, they are directed for training and, based on their strengths and weaknesses, an assessment is made regarding the job families or career they would like to be trained in;
- (iv) The social rehabilitation office shall also do the following:
- Guide the applicant to available training opportunities in the neighbouring geographic area;
  - Grant the applicant a qualification certificate if he/she has already secured a job opportunity;
  - Establish a file for each applicant with all their documents and medical, vocational and professional assessments;
  - Assess each case by either accepting or rejecting it.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yes, Egypt issues disability cards.

(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

Unclear.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

The card is issued by local social rehabilitation offices. Article 11 of the [Executive Regulations of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) outlines the steps to obtain a disability card, which are as follows:

- (i) The applicant submits a filled-out Medical Assessment Form No. 1, which confirms the existence of an impairment, injury, disease, or health condition related to disability (local social rehabilitation offices have the prerogative to verify the medical assessment if deemed necessary);
- (ii) The applicant submits their personal information/data at their local social rehabilitation office, which is managed by the Ministry of Social Solidarity;

- (iii) The social rehabilitation office conducts the functional assessment using the Functional Assessment Form No. 2 and determines the type and level of disability the applicant has, whether he/she is eligible for a disability card, and the corresponding support services;
- (iv) The social rehabilitation office determines the level of disability per the three levels outlined in article 3 of the Executive Regulations;
- (v) The applicant then fills out the Comprehensive Services Form No. 3, to receive the services provided by the social rehabilitation office.

Article 12 of the Executive Regulations states that the disability card can be renewed every seven years for stable cases without redoing the procedures outlined in the previous articles.

### *5. Disability database/registry*

#### *(a) Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

There is a mandate to create a national database for persons with disabilities. Article 13 of the [Executive Regulations of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) states that the Ministry of Health shall collaborate with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities to create a database of persons with disabilities, using the existing database at the National Statistical Office. This database will contain a record of each person with a disability with their date of birth and a record number which they will use throughout their life and will not be re-used even after their death. All government agencies shall provide services to persons with disabilities based on their disability card, and the Ministry of Health is responsible for maintaining the security of data and setting policies for accessing this data. The Ministry of Health is also responsible for all technical steps to maintain this database in coordination with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Communications and the National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority.

#### *(b) Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

The Executive Regulations set the mandate for all relevant entities to update the database. For example, article 14 states that government and non-government institutions are responsible for notifying the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Ministry of Health of any changes to the health, social or employment status of persons with disabilities.

Article 15 of the Executive Regulations states that institutions supervised by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Solidarity are expected to cooperate and coordinate with local social rehabilitation offices to notify them of any incidents/accidents that lead to disability within six months of those incidents, per Form No. 4.

#### *(c) Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

The Executive Regulations establish a mandate to connect different service providers, including the Ministry of Labour. For example, article 52 states that the Ministry of Labour shall be committed to keeping a database of all job seekers with disabilities.

Article 53 of the Executive Regulations states that the Ministry of Labour, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, shall establish a comprehensive database of job seekers with disabilities, their disabilities and the type of jobs they are qualified to do as well as current employees with disabilities and where they work. This database must be linked to the other databases mentioned in the Executive Regulations, in coordination with all other relevant entities.

## Iraq

### 1. *Definition of disability*

#### (a) *What is the definition?*

Iraq's Law No. 38 of 2013 on the Care for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs makes a distinction between "persons with disabilities" and "persons with special needs". A person with a disability is defined as "anyone who has lost the ability, in whole or in part, to participate in society on an equal basis with others, as a result of a physical, mental or sensory deficit that has led to functional impairment".<sup>14</sup>

A person with special needs is defined as "a person who has impairments compared to their peers in the same age and the social, economic, and medical environment, such as in education, sports, vocational training, family relations, etc. Persons of short stature are considered persons with special needs."

#### (b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Yes.

### 2. *Custodian agency for disability assessment*

#### (a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The [Law on the Care for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs](#) established the mandate for the Commission for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs, which falls under the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Its headquarters are in Baghdad, with offices in Iraq's different provinces. Its mandate, as listed in article 9, includes the following:

- (i) Setting the overall strategic and fiscal management of the Commission;
- (ii) Proposing laws, procedures and administrative regulations;
- (iii) Following up on the support needs of persons with disabilities and persons with special needs;
- (iv) Setting an employment strategy and programme for persons with disabilities and persons with special needs;
- (v) Establishing programmes for training and research, raising national awareness on disability prevention and sensitization.

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<sup>14</sup> Article 1 of [Law No. 38 of 2013 on the Care for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs \(Arabic\)](#), Iraq.

(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

Yes. Article 15 of the [Law on the Care for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs](#) states that the Ministry of Health shall undertake disability assessment procedures, in addition to providing disability prevention, rehabilitation and overall health care. A Specialized Medical Committee shall determine the degree of disability according to the disability assessment directive issued by the Ministry of Health in 1998.<sup>15</sup>

The exact composition of the Specialized Medical Committee is unclear.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes, a decision can be appealed by the applicant within 30 days of its issuance, and it is then re-examined by another specialized committee.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

[Directive No. 2 of 1998 on Assessing the Degree of Disability and Impairment](#) provides an elaborate annex table with a comprehensive list of diseases, functions and impairments. Each impairment is described and assigned a percentage. For example, the loss of 1-4 teeth equals 10 per cent, the loss of 5-8 teeth equals 20 per cent, the loss of 9-14 teeth equals 40 per cent and the complete loss of teeth equals 60 per cent. The list has 86 types of conditions/impairments, each with subcategories with percentages. The Directive contains, among others, the following instructions:

- (i) The person is referred to the Specialized Medical Committee only when their condition has stabilized (article 3);
- (ii) If a body organ ceases completely to perform its functions, it shall be considered lost; and if the impairment is partial, the disability percentage shall be estimated according to the levels listed in the annex table (article 4);
- (iii) If the impairment affects a function that the person needs to do their job, then the committee must indicate the person's specific job/profession, to be taken into account when assessing the degree of disability (article 5);
- (iv) Calculating the degree of disability depends on the loss of function (articles 6 and 7);
- (v) If an impairment or disease is not listed in the annex table, then the Specialized Medical Committee must estimate the degree of impairment based on the functional loss and ability to do day-to-day activities and earn a living. The annex table can be used as a reference, and once the estimation is done, two specialists must review the case (article 8);
- (vi) The degree of impairment is assessed based on the person's age and condition pre-injury or pre-disease (article 9).

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<sup>15</sup> [Directive No. 2 of 1998 on Assessing the Degree of Disability and Impairment \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Health, Iraq.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

Unclear. Per article 15 of the [Law on the Care for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs](#), the Ministry of Health shall keep a record of newborns who are susceptible to disabilities and follow up on their condition.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Unclear.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

Unclear.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Unclear.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Article 3(9) of the [Law on the Care for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs](#) states that disability cards should be issued to persons with disabilities. However, there are no further provisions on the implementation of this article, and it has not been operationalized yet.

(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

Not applicable.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

Not applicable.

#### 5. *Disability database/registry*

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Per article 15(9) of the [Law on the Care for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs](#), the Ministry of Planning shall maintain a database on persons with disabilities and special needs, per age and disability type, using household surveys and through care-provider agencies.

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

Unclear.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Unclear.

## Jordan

### 1. *Definition of disability*

#### (a) *What is the definition?*

Jordan's Law No. 20 of 2017 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities gives a comprehensive definition of disability:<sup>16</sup>

- (i) Article 3(a): For the purposes of implementing the provisions of this law, a person with a disability is anyone with a long-term impairment in their physical, sensory, mental, psychological, or neurological functions, which in interacting with physical and attitudinal barriers hinders the person from performing one of the main activities of life, or exercising one of their rights or basic freedoms independently;
- (ii) Article 3(b): An impairment is considered long-term, per section (a) of this article, if the impairment is not expected to be restored within 24 months from the date of commencing treatment or rehabilitation;
- (iii) Article 3(c): The physical and attitudinal barriers mentioned in section (a) of this article include incomplete or lack of reasonable accommodation, assistance and accessibility; they also include discrimination based on disability, whether from individual behaviours or institutional practices;
- (iv) Article 3(d): Main life activities mentioned in section (a) of this article include the following:
  - Eating, drinking, taking medicine, self-care, reading, and writing;
  - Mobility and transportation;
  - Interaction, focus, expression, and verbal, visual and written communication;
  - Learning, rehabilitation and training;
  - Working.

#### (b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Yes.

### 2. *Custodian agency for disability assessment*

#### (a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as the Higher Council) is the main entity responsible for the assessment process, in coordination with relevant authorities.

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<sup>16</sup> Article 3 of [Law No. 20 of 2017 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(Arabic\)](#), Jordan.



(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

For the medical assessment, the Minister of Health shall issue, in coordination with the Higher Council, the instructions laying out the mechanism for preparing and issuing medical reports and diagnosis and assessment criteria. The Minister of Health also determines the health facilities authorized to conduct medical assessments for persons with disabilities and issue medical reports identifying the type, level and nature of disabilities, per article 15 of the [Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), which stipulates as follows:

“A. The Minister of Health determines the mandated medical authorities for the purposes of assessing persons with disabilities and issuing medical reports indicating the type, degree and nature of disability.

B. With the exception of persons with permanent disabilities, persons with other disabilities are re-examined according to instructions issued by the Minister of Health in coordination with the Council. These instructions include the mechanism for preparing and issuing medical reports and diagnostic criteria.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other legislation, disability cases are diagnosed according to the instructions issued by the Minister of Health in coordination with the Council.”

Medical committees are currently formed under the Ministry of Health’s administrative instructions, until the administrative instructions for issuing disability cards are issued, in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Decision No. 3 of 2018 of the Ministry of Health contains additional instructions pertaining to the issuance of medical reports

For the educational assessment, the Higher Council shall set up, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, the assessment criteria for education and the criteria for curricula development, the teaching methods oriented to students with disabilities in the educational institutions (article 19).

However, according to the 2018 Annual Report of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>17</sup> procedures are still being established to implement the provisions of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including those relating to assessing disability, issuing and submitting medical reports, and determining percentages for the levels and types of disabilities.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes, appeals of decisions of the medical committee are possible per the current bylaws of the medical committees.

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<sup>17</sup> [The first annual report on the status of persons with disabilities and their rights in Jordan for 2018 \(Arabic\)](#). An executive summary of the report in English is available at <http://hcd.gov.jo/en/library-downloads>.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

Disability is assessed using a largely medical approach. The accreditation standards of diagnostic centres, which were approved by the Supreme Council and published in the Official Gazette, stipulate that medical reports should be issued by a multidisciplinary team. Accordingly, the Ministry of Health requested that the Supreme Council train its staff on these standards, including psychometric tests.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

The same process for disability assessment is applied for all, taking into consideration the applicant's age and the different medical specializations involved in the assessment.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Yes. For disability pension, the insured must be assessed with a total or partial incapacity for work and have at least 60 months of contributions, including 24 consecutive months. A Central Medical Committee, formed by the Board of Directors of Jordan's Social Security Corporation, is mandated to assess the degree of disability.<sup>18</sup>

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

The diagnosis made by the medical committees is currently approved as a diagnostic report for the purposes of unified admission to universities. However, some universities form separate specialized committees to grant the discounted tuition to students with disabilities.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Article 25 of the [Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) prohibits discrimination based on disability when it comes to employment and lists a minimum quota for employed persons with disabilities. In employment application processes, the same reports by the Ministry of Health's medical committees are used. Work is currently underway to amend the civil service system to implement employment procedures for persons with disabilities under the mandate of the Equal Opportunities Committee of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as stipulated by the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yes.

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<sup>18</sup> Jordan's Social Security Profile, 1 July 2018, International Social Security Association (ISSA), <https://ww1.issa.int/node/195543?country=888>.

(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

Disability cards cannot be issued for temporary disabilities, which are defined as impairments that last less than 24 months from the commencement of treatment or rehabilitation as stated in article 6(b) of the [Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#). It is important to note that these persons have the right to protection from discrimination, violence and exploitation, and the right to benefit from reasonable accommodation, accessibility and rehabilitation services to enable them to practice any main life activities, and access any fundamental right and freedom.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

Per article 16 of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Jordan shall issue disability cards to Jordanian citizens with disabilities. The card indicates the individual's personal information, their photo and the type, nature and degree of disabilities. The Higher Council shall also determine the specific procedures to apply for the card, including the submission of medical reports, the process and the fees.

#### *5. Disability database/registry*

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Per article 45 of the [Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), the Department of Statistics shall establish a comprehensive database on persons with disabilities and allow relevant agencies to access it to ensure that support services are delivered, on the condition that the right to privacy of information is respected. The Department of Statistics shall also conduct surveys relevant to persons with disabilities and include disability in the census to identify the characteristics of the population of persons with disabilities, their geographic distribution, age, and type and degree of disability.

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

An electronic system has been developed to archive medical reports for persons with disabilities issued by relevant authorities.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Once identification cards are operationalized and issued, the relevant authorities that provide services to persons with disabilities will be connected.

## Kuwait

### 1. Definition of disability

(a) *What is the definition?*

Kuwait's Law No. 8 of 2010 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities defines a person with a disability as "one who suffers from permanent, total or partial disorders leading to deficiencies in his/her physical, mental or sensory abilities that may prevent him/her from securing the requirements of life to work or participate fully and effectively in society on an equal basis with others".<sup>19</sup>

(b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Yes.

### 2. Custodian agency for disability assessment

(a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The Public Authority of the Disabled (PADA) is responsible for disability assessment and determination procedures. The Specialized Technical Committee has the decision-making power in disability assessment, determination and eligibility for support services and benefits. It is formed by a decision of PADA and includes a team of specialists in the field of disability diagnosis (article 1.2 of the [Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)).

(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

The Specialized Technical Committee, which undertakes assessment processes, is designated by PADA. It comprises five medical experts in disability and is chaired by the Director of PADA or his/her delegate. Its mandate includes providing technical and policy advice to PADA, reviewing and certifying medical assessments, issuing disability cards, maintaining coordination with the finance and administration unit at PADA, and notifying it of any change in the type and degree of disability so that the allocated benefits can be adjusted accordingly.<sup>20</sup>

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes. Kuwaiti officials, in their answers to the ESCWA questionnaire, have clarified that an appeal request can be submitted to the Appeals Committee (which is a neutral committee appointed by PADA) within 60 days of PADA's decision with a recent medical report, different from the one previously submitted. If the Appeals Committee's opinion is not favourable, the request can be referred to the Specialized Technical Committee and, based on the new information presented, if a consensus is reached, the Specialized Technical Committee can accept the appeal, affirm the previous disability classification, reinstate all relevant benefits and specify the type of impairment and its severity. The

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<sup>19</sup> Article 1 of [Law No. 8 of 2010 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(Arabic\)](#), Kuwait.

<sup>20</sup> Provisions on the formation of PADA and its mandates can be found in articles 47-58 of [Law No. 8 of 2010 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(Arabic\)](#), Kuwait.

applicant can also present a new report and submit it to the Appeals Committee one year after its decision, noting that PADA has a special procedure for renewing disability certificates before their expiration and makes its decision, according to the relevant procedures and regulations, to renew the certificate or request the submission of a recent report to the Appeals Committee.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

#### (a) *How is disability assessed?*

To get a disability certificate, the applicant must obtain a medical report from a hospital and submit it to the Specialized Technical Committee at PADA, which then reviews it and issues a “disability certificate” detailing the type and level of disability.<sup>21</sup>

#### (b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

The [Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) indicates that the same Specialized Technical Committee can assess children with disabilities with regard to educational enrolment, in collaboration with relevant entities.

#### (c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

The same Specialized Technical Committee at PADA is involved in the assessment process to establish eligibility for disability pensions. The amount of the pension depends on years of service, type of disability (temporary/permanent), and other factors (articles 41, 42 and 43 of the [Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)).

#### (d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

The same Specialized Technical Committee at PADA assesses students with disabilities to facilitate their enrolment in the appropriate educational track (article 27 of the Administrative Instructions of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).

#### (e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Public and private entities and oil-sector companies that employ 50 or more Kuwaitis are mandated to have a quota of 4 per cent for persons with disabilities (article 14 of the [Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)). PADA is required to coordinate with relevant entities, namely, the Ministry of Labour, to provide vocational and professional training programmes and to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities. The assessment process is not specified in the law or regulations but would include the role of PADA in setting the criteria for training, in coordination with the relevant entities.

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<sup>21</sup> [Steps to Obtain a Disability Card \(Arabic\)](#), Public Authority of the Disabled (PADA), Kuwait.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yes.

(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

No, since the definition of disability in the [Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) specifies that the impairment must be permanent.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

PADA issues the disability card, which is defined in article 1.15 of the [Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) as “an official document issued by the Public Authority for Persons with Disabilities, proving that its holder is disabled based on a disability certificate issued by the Specialized Technical Committee, specifying the type and degree of disability”. The Law mentions that there are three categories of disabilities, namely, mild, moderate and severe.

To obtain a disability certificate, an applicant must obtain a medical report from a hospital and submit it to the Specialized Technical Committee at PADA, which reviews it and issues the disability certificate detailing the type and level of disability. The applicant must then submit a request for a disability ID card, attaching the disability certificate. The Specialized Technical Committee reviews the request and grants the card.

#### 5. *Disability database/registry*

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Yes, PADA has established a digital national database for persons with disabilities that is connected across different government agencies. As stated in article 39 of Administrative Decision No. 210 of 2017 on the Executive Regulations of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, PADA shall coordinate with all relevant entities to update the information for registered persons with disabilities at least once every three years for all types of disabilities, except for those with learning disabilities, whose status must be updated every two years.

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

Yes, data is usually updated every month before financial support payments are dispersed, and when individual applications or inquiries are submitted, the information is updated immediately.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Yes, PADA's database has been linked and integrated with 20 government agencies and entities in the last three years allowing, among others, the following functions:

- (i) Access by government authorities to basic data related to persons with disabilities;
- (ii) A two-way integrated system to upload data and automatically update relevant implications;
- (iii) Access by PADA to government agencies' data through query screens.

## Lebanon

### 1. *Definition of disability*

#### (a) *What is the definition?*

Lebanon's Law 220/2000 on the Rights of Disabled Persons defines a person with a disability as "any person with a limited or diminished ability to practice one or more important life activities, provide the necessities of their personal life on their own, participate in social life on an equal basis with others or ensure a normal personal and social life per society's norms, due to a loss or limitation in their physical, sensory or intellectual functions, in part or whole, permanently or temporarily, from birth, or acquired, or due to a medical condition that lasted longer than it should have medically lasted".<sup>22</sup>

#### (b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Yes.

### 2. *Custodian agency for disability assessment*

#### (a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The Ministry of Social Affairs.

#### (b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

Disability assessments can be processed at any of the Ministry of Social Affairs' eight centres under the Rights and Access programme,<sup>23</sup> which is mandated to issue the disability card. The centres are in Beirut, Tripoli, Baalbek, Halba, Hadath, Baakleen, Taanayel, and Sarafand. The medical report is prepared by a team of doctors specializing in the four types of disabilities.

There is no central medical committee or a medical committee in every centre. Rather, there is a medical committee per disability type in the main centre, and it meets every 15 days or once a month. Per specific procedures and conditions under the programme, such as when a patient objects to the outcome of a diagnosis (disability not included in the approved list, or no disability found) or when a patient's disability is unclear and complicated, their file is then referred to the relevant medical committee per disability type.

#### (c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes, per article 5 of the [Law on the Rights of Disabled Persons](#), if an application for a disability card is rejected, the applicant can appeal the decision within one month. According to the procedures in the Rights and Access programme, with the aim of providing a fair opportunity, a person with

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<sup>22</sup> Article 2 of [Law No. 220/2000 on the Rights of Disabled Persons \(29/5/2000\) \(Arabic\)](#), Lebanon.

<sup>23</sup> [Rights and Access programme \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanon.

a disability has the right to object immediately and submit a request for referral to appear before the medical committee per their type of disability, for re-diagnosis and re-evaluation and subsequent determination of whether they have a disability.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

#### (a) *How is disability assessed?*

Lebanon is currently working to update its disability assessment system, which was based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health” (ICIDH)<sup>24</sup> of the World Health Organization (WHO). A committee of doctors in Lebanon put forth four categories and types of disabilities. The process of issuing a personal disability card was launched under the Rights and Access programme of the Ministry of Social Affairs, in accordance with the decision of the Minister of Social Affairs in 1995 and [Law 220/2000 on the Rights of Disabled Persons](#). The personal disability card is the official document which provides persons with disabilities access to all services linked to the card and access to their rights and privileges under Lebanese laws and regulations.

When assessing and determining disability, the definition of disability depends on the connection between the following three scientific criteria:

- (i) Result: the impact of disability on functioning (reduced ability or loss of ability to engage in normal activities, secure the requirements of their personal life, participate in social activities or ensure a normal life in accordance with the standards of their society);
- (ii) Cause: total or partial loss (functional, physical, sensory, or mental). Two other criteria fall under cause:
  - The degree of the disability (total or partial);
  - The duration of the disability (permanent or temporary);
- (iii) Impairment/illness: illness in childbirth, acquired (war accident/injury) or chronic disease.

The [Rights and Access programme](#) relies on a list that includes 156 classifications to classify and determine disability. A reference guide is also used by physicians at disability centres which includes a list of 199 causes and a list of 61 illnesses (health status or illness).

The Ministry of Social Affairs issued an Executive Decree in 1995 with the classification of the four types of disabilities. It was prepared by a committee of doctors with different disability specialties, and various specialized doctors’ associations in Lebanon concerned with disabilities, including orthopaedics, optometry, ear-nose-throat, psychiatry, and the nervous system. The Executive Decree of

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<sup>24</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO) issued the first version of the Classification in 1980 with the initial title “International Classification of Impairment, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH)”, which sets international standards for the description and measurement of health and disability. It has been subject to several revisions since 1993 and was experimented in many parts of the world. The second version was adopted by all 191 States members of WHO, with a different title “International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICIDH-2)”, and known also as ICF. An overview of the Classification is available at [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icfoverview\\_finalforwho10sept.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icfoverview_finalforwho10sept.pdf); and more information is available at <https://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en>.



1995 divides disability into the following four types in addition to learning disabilities and multiple disabilities:

- (i) 118 classifications of motor disabilities;
- (ii) 6 classifications of mental disabilities;
- (iii) 20 classifications of visual disabilities;
- (iv) 10 classifications of hearing disabilities;
- (v) Learning disabilities;
- (vi) Multiple disabilities.

With a total of 156 classifications, the 1995 Executive Decree was updated twice, in 1997 and 2000.

Services and benefits provided to persons with disabilities include 99 services under 30 categories (including wheelchairs, medical beds, mobility aids, incontinence service, and others). Based on the diagnosis of a disability, the services provided are determined. People with mobility disabilities have access to all of these services, and if a person with hearing, visual or mental disabilities needs any of these services, the assigned doctor at a disability card centre can prescribe the service for them, based on any emergency or new health condition and their functional capabilities.

*(b) Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

The Model Centre for Persons with Disabilities<sup>25</sup> under the Ministry of Social Affairs applies an IQ test, provides specialized speech therapy sessions to children free of charge and directs them, in cooperation with the Rights and Access programme, to the appropriate institution for rehabilitation and education, especially for children with learning difficulties.

*(c) Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Yes, per the Lebanon Social Security Law,<sup>26</sup> applications for disability pensions and accompanying medical assessments must be reviewed and verified by the Medical Supervision Unit at the National Social Security Fund.<sup>27</sup> The Medical Supervision Unit consists of doctors and pharmacists.

*(d) Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

The Education Committee for Persons with Disabilities and Those with Special Needs, and under it a subcommittee for specialized education, rely on the personal disability card and not on a separate assessment.

Per article 64 of the [Law on the Rights of Disabled Persons](#), the Education Committee is mandated with empowering persons with disabilities in the academic and vocational educational sectors. It is chaired by the General Director of the Ministry of Education and must include one member,

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<sup>25</sup> [Model Centre for Persons with Disabilities \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanon.

<sup>26</sup> [Social Security Law of 1963 \(Arabic\)](#), Lebanon.

<sup>27</sup> [Decree on Establishing and Regulating the Medical Supervision Unit at the National Social Security Fund, 1968 \(Arabic\)](#), Lebanon.

a person with a disability, from the National Authority for Disability Affairs. It should also include other members from relevant entities as the Committee decides.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Per article 72 of the [Law on the Rights of Disabled Persons](#), the Committee to Ensure the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Employment relies on the personal disability card and not on a separate assessment. This Committee is mandated with setting strategies that support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market. It is chaired by the General Director of the Ministry of Labour and must include one member, a person with a disability, from the National Authority for Disability Affairs. It should also include other members from relevant entities as the Committee decides.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yes.

(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

Yes, the card is issued to every person with a disability listed in accordance with Law 220/2000 in the lists of approved classifications, and the card is withdrawn immediately upon the absence of disability, and their condition is no longer classified within the approved lists.

The [Rights and Access programme](#) defines a temporary disability as an impairment that is treatable by rehabilitation and/or other measures; in this case, the person is given a disability card for a specific period of time. The card is then withdrawn from them following a new examination showing improvement of their condition and the absence of a disability from the approved list.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

The disability card is issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs per article 5 of Law No. 220/2000. The process to issue a personal disability card includes submitting the following documents to the relevant centres under the Ministry:<sup>28</sup>

- (i) National ID;
- (ii) Two photos;
- (iii) Family record;
- (iv) Full medical report (and lab test assessments and X-rays, if available);
- (v) A hearing assessment that is not older than one year, if the applicant has a hearing disability.

To obtain a disability card, the applicant must be Lebanese and must undergo examination and diagnosis by a disability centre doctor specialized in their type of disability. The card is valid for three months to five years depending on the doctor's diagnosis and the condition of disability, and the possibility of its absence following rehabilitation, or not.

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<sup>28</sup> [Process of issuing a Personal Disability Card \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Social Affairs, Lebanon.

If a person with disabilities cannot visit a disability card centre, one of their parents or relatives who is legally competent can bring their medical report on their behalf. Alternatively, a team (a doctor accompanied by social assistance or another employee) could visit their home to provide a diagnosis and assessment and process their card or provide various services.

The disability card is issued through an electronic system, and it provides access to applicable rights and benefits for persons with disabilities in Lebanon, including assistive devices, prosthetic devices, rehabilitation, fee and tax exemptions, and others.

#### *5. Disability database/registry*

*(a) Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

The current system only links the eight centres and other relevant disability units (including the Model Centre and the Authority of Disabled Affairs).

*(b) Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

The procedures of disability card centres, under the Rights and Access programme, ensure the periodic updating of all data stored electronically.

*(c) Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

This data is used internally, namely, within the Ministry of Social Affairs and its affiliated units supporting disability card holders and providing services to them. However, externally, databases are not connected to other public or private agencies. The Ministry hopes to establish an interconnected database in the future. The Ministry currently does provide information requested by other ministries related to disability card holders.

## Libya

### 1. *Definition of disability*

(a) *What is the definition?*

Libya's Law No. 5 of 1987 on the Disabled defines a person with a disability as "anyone who suffers from a permanent impairment that hinders them from working, in whole or in part, or from practicing normal behaviour in society, whether it is an impairment in their mental, psychological, sensory or physical abilities, whether from birth or acquired".<sup>29</sup>

(b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Yes.

### 2. *Custodian agency for disability assessment*

(a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

Per Law No. 5 of 1987 on the Disabled, the entities mandated to conduct disability assessment and policy include the National Committee for the Care of the Disabled, and the People's Committee for Social Security, both of which fall under the Social Solidarity Fund. Per the Law, the People's Committee for Social Security also had local branches attached to the municipalities, and they carry out on-the-ground assessment and follow-up.

(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

There are local medical committees that conduct disability assessments in every municipality, but there is no central committee. The committees consist of strictly medical staff.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Unclear.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

Disability assessment in Libya adopts a medical approach. The current legal framework for the rights of persons with disabilities is outlined in [Law No 5. of 1987 on the Disabled](#). Article 3 mentions that "disabled persons" are classified within these categories:

- (i) Persons with mental and cognitive impairments;

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<sup>29</sup> Article 2 of [Law No. 5 of 1987 on the Disabled \(Arabic\)](#), Libya.

- (ii) Persons with an impairment that prevents them from performing day-to-day activities in society, even if this impairment is not associated with an apparent inability to perform a function, including the following:
- Blind persons;
  - Deaf persons;
  - Mute persons;
  - Persons with visual impairments with no possibility to restore vision;
  - Persons with hearing impairment with no possibility to restore hearing;
  - Persons with one or more amputated limbs;
  - Persons with paralysis;
  - Wheelchair users;
- (iii) Persons with chronic diseases that hinder them from performing work even if this is not accompanied by an apparent inability to perform normal behaviour in society. These diseases and their severity are determined by the General People's Committee based on a proposal from the relevant authority.
- (iv) Persons with permanent amputation or a permanent disability in a part of their body, if the health of this part is a prerequisite for carrying out their usual work.

If a person has multiple disabilities, they are classified in one of these four categories based on their most severe impairment.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

No.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Yes, there is a separate disability classification for those applying to the disability pension.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

No.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

There is no separate assessment process for employment. Per article 20 of [Law No. 5 of 1987 on the Disabled](#), people's committees for public service at the municipalities shall provide training and vocational formation at the training centres and other specialized centres and institutes, in coordination with people's committees for social security and other relevant entities.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yes.

(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

Unclear.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

The Social Solidarity Fund issues disability cards based on a medical assessment conducted at a local medical committee in every municipality.

#### 5. *Disability database/registry*

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

The Social Solidarity Fund has a database of all those who were assessed by medical committees to obtain a disability card.

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

The database includes all individuals who applied for a disability card.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

No.

## Mauritania

### 1. *Definition of disability*

(a) *What is the definition?*

Mauritania's Law 043-2006 on the Protection and Promotion of Disabled Persons defines a person with a disability as "any person who is not able, in whole or in part, to carry out multiple activities of public life as a result of a permanent or temporary injury in one of their physical, mental or motor functions, whether acquired or from birth".<sup>30</sup>

(b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Unclear.

### 2. *Custodian agency for disability assessment*

(a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family.

(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

The Technical Committee Charged with the Issuance of the Disabled Person's Card was established pursuant to a decision by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family<sup>31</sup> with the following composition:

- (i) Head of the Disability Directorate in the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family as Committee Chair;
- (ii) A doctor assigned by the Ministry of Health, as member;
- (iii) Four representatives from the Mauritanian Federation of National Organizations of Persons with Disabilities.

The local offices of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family can receive assessment applications and refer them to the Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee is mandated to:

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<sup>30</sup> Article 1 of [Law No. 043-2006 on the Protection and Promotion of Disabled Persons \(Arabic\)](#), Mauritania.

<sup>31</sup> The Arabic text of Decision No. 641-2017 on the Establishment, Composition and Functioning of the Technical Committee Charged with the Issuance of the Disabled Person's Card is available in Mauritania's Official Journal, No. 1399, p. 733, at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-nxoBFHWcgLW1uq2XXc4PCEf4g9Keeka/view>.

- (i) Review applications;
- (ii) Decide on the disability type and degree;
- (iii) Decide on the expiration date of the card;
- (iv) Decide on the services that applicants can access depending on their needs and socioeconomic situation.

The Technical Committee meets at least twice a month, or as needed.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes, per article 8 of Decision No. 641-2017 on the Establishment, Composition and Functioning of the Technical Committee Charged with the Issuance of the Disabled Person's Card, if an application for a card is rejected, the applicant can appeal the decision within a month and provide the justification.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

Per article 9 of Decision No. 641-2017 on the Establishment, Composition and Functioning of the Technical Committee Charged with the Issuance of the Disabled Person's Card, the Technical Committee shall review card applications while considering all health, functional, psychological, social, and economic dimensions in their assessments.

When performing medical and functional assessments, the Technical Committee must take into account the following:

- (i) The cause of impairment;
- (ii) The type and degree of impairment;
- (iii) The impact of the impairment on the person's functioning and independence;
- (iv) The extent of their need for rehabilitation, assistive devices and technology or personal assistance;
- (v) The person's ability to perform personal day-to-day activities.

The Technical Committee shall also consider psychological, social and economic dimensions to assess the ability of persons with disability to participate in main social, vocational and other life activities, and their integration in society. The Technical Committee can also request complementary medical or semi-medical assessments.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

Unclear.



- (c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Unclear.

- (d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

Article 34 of [Law No. 043-2006 on the Protection and Promotion of Disabled Persons](#) states that both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family shall manage the process of assessing and integrating children with disabilities in public and private schools. The article also stipulated creating a decentralized National Multidisciplinary Committee to guide and follow up with students with disabilities in both the mainstream track and the special education track. The composition of this Multidisciplinary Committee shall be determined through a joint decree by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family.

- (e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Article 45 of Law No. 043-2006 on the Protection and Promotion of Disabled Persons states that the procedures to enrol persons with disabilities to vocational and job training shall be determined by a joint decree by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family and the Ministry of Vocational and Technical Training.

#### 4. *Disability card*

- (a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yes.

- (b) *Are they issued for ‘temporary’ disabilities as well?*

Potentially yes, since the definition of a “disabled person”, in [Law No. 043-2006 on the Protection and Promotion of Disabled Persons](#), mentions both temporary and permanent impairments.

- (c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

The application is reviewed by the central Technical Committee Charged with the Issuance of the Disabled Person’s Card, and applicants must submit an application form, a copy of their national ID, two photos, and a medical certificate from the main county doctor or from a relevant specialist as requested by the Technical Committee.

In December 2017, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family launched the Disabled Person’s Card,<sup>32</sup> which identifies the type and degree of impairments. It aims to enhance data collection as well as facilitate access to health services free of charge in public health institutions and reduce costs of transportation and treatment at private clinics. The Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family launched the programme in the capital city Nouakchott in a pilot stage, with the hope of making it

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<sup>32</sup> The file of the Disabled Person’s Card (Arabic) is available on the website of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family, Mauritania, at <https://www.masef.gov.mr/spip.php?article567>.

available nationally (however, the answers provided by Mauritanian officials to the ESCWA questionnaire did not clarify whether it has been expanded nationally in all the regions).

#### *5. Disability database/registry*

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

The available laws and decrees do not mention a mandate to keep a national database for persons with disabilities. It is unclear if there is one; and if so, how connected it is to different service providers.

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

Unclear.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Unclear.

## Morocco

### 1. Definition of disability

(a) *What is the definition?*

Morocco's Law No. 13.97 of 2016 on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons in Disability defines a person with a disability as "every person with a permanent impairment or limitation in their physical, mental, psychological or sensory abilities, whether stable or developing, which could prevent them, when interacting with various barriers, from participating fully and effectively in society on an equal basis with others".<sup>33</sup>

(b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Yes.

### 2. Custodian agency for disability assessment

(a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality, and Family and the Ministry of Health.

(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

Yes, the Central Technical Committee reviews disability card applications. There are also Regional Medical Committees, led solely by the Ministry of Health, which are also involved in the assessment process for disability cards and the assessment process for inclusive education.

Article 2 of Executive Decree No. 2.97.218<sup>34</sup> stipulates that the Central Technical Committee comprises the following:

- (i) Specialized doctors in the following fields:
- Genetics;
  - Paediatrics;
  - Paediatric surgery;
  - Diseases of the ear, nose and throat;
  - Eye illnesses;
  - Orthopaedics and fractures surgery;
  - Corrective and reconstructive surgery;
  - Nerve diseases;
  - Mental illness;

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<sup>33</sup> Article 2 of [Law No. 13.97 of 2016 on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons in Disability \(Arabic\)](#), Morocco.

<sup>34</sup> [Decree No. 2.97.218 on Implementing the Law on the Social Care for Persons with Disabilities \(Arabic\)](#), Morocco. The Decree was issued in 1997 defining the procedure for obtaining the disability card and its validity.

- (ii) A general medical doctor;
- (iii) A psychologist;
- (iv) A specialist in prosthetics and assistive devices;
- (v) A legal expert;
- (vi) A social worker or social counsellor;
- (vii) A representative from the Ministry of Health.

These specialists attend the meeting depending on the relevance of the cases being reviewed, and any relevant expert can be invited for consultation.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes, per article 9 of Executive Decree No. 2.97.218, an applicant with a rejected request for a disability card can appeal the decision within three months.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

Morocco is currently working on transitioning from its current medical approach to disability assessment towards a more holistic and social approach, in alignment with the [United Nations CRPD](#). This transition is part of the country's National Plan 2017-2021 for the Empowerment of Persons in Disability.<sup>35</sup>

The institutional set-up for the current system relies on a central technical committee which reviews applications for the disability card. Committee members are doctors of all backgrounds appointed by the Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality, and Family and the Ministry of Health. According to the Health Minister's Decision No. 1977.98 of 1998 on the medical and technical standards for disability classification and determination, five types of disability are identified, namely visual, mobility, mental, hearing and voice. Each type has a model with three levels of disability (mild, medium and severe), and three categories of duration (permanent, not permanent and changing).

The new system will be more holistic and take social participation into account. It will consider the interaction between an impairment and the wider environment, allow for better investment of resources and achieve harmonization. It will create a set of unified standards for assessments and allow for tracking of gaps in needs and feed them into policymaking and programmes. It will also create a statistical database that will facilitate follow-up and analysis.<sup>36</sup>

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

For education, see below.

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<sup>35</sup> [National Plan 2017-2021 for the Empowerment of Persons in Disability \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality, and Family, Morocco.

<sup>36</sup> [Report of the fourth meeting of ESCWA's Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability \(IGED-4\)](#) (Morocco's presentation), Cairo, 14-15 December 2019.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Yes, to apply for a disability pension, the applicant must submit the following to the National Social Security Fund:<sup>37</sup>

- (i) A copy of the national ID;
- (ii) A “life certificate” not older than three months showing the applicant is alive;
- (iii) A disability pension application form signed and stamped by the employer of the applicant;
- (iv) A copy of the police or Royal Gendarmerie report in case the disability was caused by a traffic accident;
- (v) A medical certificate by a specialist stating the type of disability and its starting date;
- (vi) A bank certificate or check form (if not previously presented to the National Social Security Fund).

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

Article 13 of [Law No. 13.97 of 2016 on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons in Disability](#) states that regional committees shall be formed to assign students with disabilities to guide their educational enrolment, and that executive regulations shall be issued to provide more detailed procedures and steps.

Per Morocco’s Reference Framework for Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities,<sup>38</sup> the assessment process to enrol students with disabilities is led by two committees, namely, the Regional Medical Committee under the Ministry of Health and the Parliamentary Committee of the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, which are in charge of receiving, guiding and following up in the area of enrolling children with special needs in schools.

According to instructions issued in a joint communication by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training,<sup>39</sup> based on the assessment, students with disabilities can be placed in one of three educational tracks: a normal mainstream class; an inclusive education class in a mainstream school; or a special education institution.

The joint instructions provide details on the mandates of both committees, the Regional Medical Committee and the Parliamentary Committee, and the assessment process. It is a long process which

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<sup>37</sup> [Disability Pension \(Arabic\)](#), National Social Security Fund, Morocco.

<sup>38</sup> [Reference Framework for Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, Morocco.

<sup>39</sup> Instructions on the structure and mandates of the Regional Medical Committee and the Parliamentary Committee were issued in the [Joint Communication for the activation of the Regional Medical Committee and the Parliamentary Committee for receiving, guiding and following up in the area of enrolling children with special needs in schools \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Health and Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, Morocco, 25 June 2014.

relies, in essence, on the cooperation of both committees, to assign students to one of the three tracks listed above. The Medical Committee comprises mainly doctors and performs the medical assessment, while the Parliamentary Committee undertakes a complementary psychosocial and educational assessment.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

The annex of [Executive Decree No. 218-97-2](#) contains a comprehensive list of the job families that persons with disabilities can occupy in the public sector, depending on the type of disability they have. The list is divided into the following: mobility disabilities; visual disabilities; hearing disabilities; intellectual disabilities; and speech/voice disabilities.

For example, persons with intellectual disabilities can occupy the following job families in the public sector:

- (i) Administrative jobs: all administrative work, especially writing, information technology coordination, reception, accounting, financial management, audit, procurement, translation, and archives;
- (ii) Educational and vocational jobs: teaching in all levels in educational and vocational training institutions;
- (iii) Information technology jobs: lab work, architecture, construction, and mapping/geography;
- (iv) Medical and semi-medical jobs: especially nursing, medical massage, orthotics, prosthetics, and dental industry;
- (v) Media jobs: especially working on radio programming, journalism and editing;
- (vi) Cultural, artistic jobs: including cultural and art activities and cinema.

It should be noted that the job families for other disability types are very similar to this list, with slight variations including other job families such as law, social work and sports. The exact assessment process for these employment options is not clear in the Executive Decree.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Currently, “disability certificates” are issued, pending the process to launch “disability cards” as mandated in article 23 of Law 97-13.

(b) *Are they issued for ‘temporary’ disabilities as well?*

The Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality, and Family issues disability certificates to persons with disabilities, whether that disability is temporary or permanent, as they await the issuance of a disability card, as stated in [Law No. 13.97 on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons in Disabilities](#).

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

The disability certificate is issued by the Central Technical Committee at the Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality and Family, as they await the issuance of disability cards.

Per article 5 of [Executive Decree No. 218-97-2](#), in order to receive a disability card, an applicant must submit the following:

- (i) An application form;
- (ii) A request form signed by the applicant, or their representative such as their parent or an organization for persons with disabilities;
- (iii) A medical file, supplemented with a certified medical report, signed by the Regional Medical Committee of the Ministry of Health (depending on the applicant's residence location).

Since July 2020, the process to apply for the disability card has been digitalized and applicants can submit their application and scans of all required documents online via the e-service portal “Khadamaty”, which also facilitates all other services provided by the Ministry to persons with disabilities.<sup>40</sup>

#### 5. *Disability database/registry*

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Currently, there is no national database for persons with disabilities. However, the Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality, and Family conducts a comprehensive study every ten years following national and international standards. In this regard, the second national study for disability was conducted in 2014 to provide updated quantitative and qualitative data on disabilities to enable relevant actors to identify and classify the needs of persons with disabilities and thus develop strategies and programmes to respond to them. This study found that the prevalence of disabilities at the national level was 6.8 per cent, which means that there are 2,264,672 persons with disabilities in Morocco.

Morocco aims to establish an integrated database through its current disability policy reform process, and part of its [National Plan 2017-2021 for the Empowerment of Persons in Disability](#).

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

No, however, the new planned database aims to be integrated.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

No, however, the new planned database aims to be integrated.

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<sup>40</sup> Details on the launching of the e-service portal “Khadamaty” for the issuance of a disability certificate are available at the website of the [Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality, and Family](#), Morocco.

## Oman

### 1. *Definition of disability*

(a) *What is the definition?*

Oman ratified the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#) in 2008, and affirmed those rights in Royal Decree No. 63/2008 issuing the Law for the Care and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. The Law defines a person with a disability as “an individual who has a sensory, physical, or mental impairment, from birth or due to an illness or injury, that could prevent them from carrying out their normal functions in life compared to their peers of the same age, leading them to require care and rehabilitation to carry their role or functions in life”.<sup>41</sup>

(b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Yes.

### 2. *Custodian agency for disability assessment*

(a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health.

(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

This is mentioned in article 4 of the Ministerial Resolution No. 94/2008 on the Regulations for the Issuance of Disability Cards,<sup>42</sup> where it is stipulated that in order to provide a disability card, the person concerned should present a medical report issued by a specialized medical committee which shall be appointed pursuant to a decision by the Ministry of Health. However, the composition of this committee is unclear.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes.

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<sup>41</sup> Article 1 of [Royal Decree No. 63/2008 issuing the Law for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled \(Arabic\)](#), Oman.

<sup>42</sup> [Ministerial Resolution No. 94/2008 on the Regulations for the Issuance of Disability Cards \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Social Development, Oman.



### 3. *Disability assessment system*

#### (a) *How is disability assessed?*

In 2016, Oman released its Social Work Strategy 2016-2025,<sup>43</sup> a comprehensive strategy that includes the following six pillars:

- (i) Social protection;
- (ii) Social care [welfare];
- (iii) Family and social development;
- (iv) Rights of persons with disabilities;
- (v) Associations and non-governmental organizations;
- (vi) Institutional support.

The fourth pillar of the Strategy, which relates to the rights of persons with disabilities, outlines Oman's goal to move from a medical approach to disability to a more comprehensive approach focusing on social inclusion. It also outlines specific goals to move from individual service provision to social inclusion and mainstream support services by issuing a new disability law that is compliant with the [United Nations CRPD](#), establishing an independent national centre for disability assessment and establishing a unified national registry.

Based on this ten-year Strategy, Oman is currently in a pilot phase to update its disability assessment and determination systems, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

#### (b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

Oman is currently working with UNICEF to establish an assessment process for children in line with the [United Nations CRPD](#) and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICIDH).<sup>44</sup>

#### (c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Yes.

#### (d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

Yes, but the steps are unclear.

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<sup>43</sup> [The Social Work Strategy 2016-2025 \(Arabic\)](#), Oman, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

<sup>44</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO) issued the first version of the Classification in 1980 with the initial title "International Classification of Impairment, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH)", which sets international standards for the description and measurement of health and disability. It has been subject to several revisions since 1993 and was experimented in many parts of the world. The second version was adopted by all 191 States members of WHO, with a different title "International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICIDH-2)", and known also as ICF. An overview of the Classification is available at [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icfoverview\\_finalforwho10sept.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icfoverview_finalforwho10sept.pdf); and more information is available at <https://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en>.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Yes, but the steps are unclear.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yes.

(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

Yes, article 10 of [Ministerial Resolution No. 94/2008 on the Regulations for the Issuance of Disability Cards](#), states that a temporary disability card can be issued for someone who has a temporary impairment for the duration of the temporary disability, per the medical assessment and following the same steps mentioned in article 5 of the Ministerial Resolution.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

The card is issued by the Ministry of Social Development according to an assessment procedure outlined in [Ministerial Resolution No. 94/2008](#). The issuance of a disability card (Ministerial Resolution, article 4) requires that the applicant is Omani and has a permanent disability, confirmed by a medical report issued by the relevant medical institution.

The applicant must fill out Form 1 (article 5), which contains the following:

- (i) Personal information: social status, education, employment, rehabilitation;
- (ii) Information on the type of disability: mobility, hearing, visual, mental, or other;
- (iii) An apparent disability, which can be recorded without a medical assessment, with the signature of the administrative director;
- (iv) Causes of the disability: congenital, during childbirth, as a result of disease, heredity, or as a result of an accident;
- (v) Use of assistive devices, and degree of self-reliance/independence.

The disability card should be issued within 15 days of the application, per the required forms (article 6).

It is valid for five years and can be renewed for another five years upon submitting a renewal request with two personal photos. The applicant can renew the card within one month of its expiration. Beyond that period, they would need to reapply for a new card (article 7).

If the disability card is damaged for any reason, they can reapply without a new medical assessment (article 8).

If the disability card is lost, they must report it as lost at a police station, and they can get a replacement with the same validity period as the first one. They do not need a new medical assessment (article 9).

#### 5. *Disability database/registry*

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Yes, there is a database of persons with disabilities, and its regulation is mandated in article 11 of [Ministerial Resolution No. 94/2008 on the Regulations for the Issuance of Disability Cards](#). It is a digital database and connected with other government entities to exchange data.

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

Yes, there is an online network that automatically feeds information on the results of the assessment process with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development. The network is currently set up in four governorates and will be expanded to the rest of the country.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Yes.

## State of Palestine

### 1. *Definition of disability*

(a) *What is the definition?*

Palestine's Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of the Disabled defines persons with disabilities as "every person with a permanent total or partial impairment in their sensory, physical, psychological or mental abilities to an extent that limits their ability to meet the normal needs of their life, in the same conditions as their peers without disabilities".<sup>45</sup>

(b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Unclear.

### 2. *Custodian agency for disability assessment*

(a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The Ministry of Social Affairs.

(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

Unclear. Article 10 of the [Law on the Rights of the Disabled](#) alludes to a potential role by the Ministry of Health in disability assessment and determination, but the assessment process and division of responsibilities is not clarified.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Unclear.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

Unclear. It is important to mention that in Palestine, disability assessment, determination and provision of services are mostly carried out by non-governmental organizations and organizations for persons with disabilities rather than by government agencies. Hence, the process may differ depending on the relevant agency or non-governmental organization in question.

For example, a report by Ziad Amr, from the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, mentions that the Government only provides 10 per cent of rehabilitation services available to

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<sup>45</sup> Article 1 of [Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of the Disabled \(Arabic\)](#), Palestine.

persons with disabilities, with the remaining 90 per cent provided by civil society or the private sector.<sup>46</sup> (Although the report was published in 2001, the observation is still relevant).

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

Unclear.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Unclear.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

Unclear.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Unclear.

#### 4. Disability card

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yes.

(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

Unclear.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

Law No. 4 of 1999 on the Rights of the Disabled states that the Ministry of Social Affairs shall issue a disability card for persons with disabilities in collaboration with the relevant authorities. However, the Law does not mention the authorities, criteria or documentation needed to issue it.

#### 5. Disability database/registry

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Unclear.

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

Unclear.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Unclear.

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<sup>46</sup> Ziad Amr, *Report on the Rights of Persons with Special Needs in Current Palestinian Laws (Arabic)*, The Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, 2001, Palestine.

## Qatar

### 1. Definition of disability

#### (a) What is the definition?

Qatar's Law No. 2 of 2004 in respect of People with Special Needs defines a person with a disability as "any person with a permanent, total or partial, disability in any of the senses or in his or her physical, psychological or mental abilities to such an extent that his or her opportunity to learn, undergo rehabilitation or earn a living is limited".<sup>47</sup>

#### (b) Is it consistent across national and local levels?

Yes.

### 2. Custodian agency for disability assessment

#### (a) Who leads the disability assessment process?

The Qatar Social Work Foundation is the main entity responsible for disability issues.<sup>48</sup> Qatar has a national committee comprising three institutions working on disability issues, namely the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Shafallah Center for Persons with Disabilities. The Ministry of Health does the medical assessment, the Ministry of Education assesses students' abilities/needs and the Shafallah Center's evaluation includes many components of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICIDH)<sup>49</sup> from social to environmental factors.<sup>50</sup>

#### (b) If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?

Unclear.

#### (c) Is there an appeals process?

No.

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<sup>47</sup> Article 1 of Law No. 2 of 2004 in respect of People with Special Needs, Qatar.

<sup>48</sup> Information on the centres of the Qatar Social Work Foundation is available at <http://www.qatarsocial.org/en/Pages/AboutCenters.aspx>.

<sup>49</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO) issued the first version of the Classification in 1980 with the initial title "International Classification of Impairment, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH)", which sets international standards for the description and measurement of health and disability. It has been subject to several revisions since 1993 and was experimented in many parts of the world. The second version was adopted by all 191 States members of WHO, with a different title "International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICIDH-2)", and known also as ICF. An overview of the Classification is available at [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icfoverview\\_finalforwho10sept.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icfoverview_finalforwho10sept.pdf); and more information is available at <https://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en>.

<sup>50</sup> Report of the fourth meeting of ESCWA's Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability (IGED-4), Cairo, 14-15 December 2019.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

Each service provider conducts its own disability assessment. For example, the Shafallah Center for Persons with Disabilities provides a comprehensive assessment to provide rehabilitation and support services. Meanwhile, the Rou'a Assessment, Advice and Support Center under the Ministry of Education conducts an educational assessment to assign students with disabilities, and the Ministry of Labour has its own vocational assessment and training programme to employ persons with disabilities.

All these assessments contain a medical component, but the exact processes and classification system are unclear.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

The Shafallah Center provides a comprehensive assessment and support services for children and adults up to the age of 21. Their services include psychosocial support, educational and vocational training and medical rehabilitation.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs provides a special needs allowance for citizens who are “disabled” or who suffer from an incurable condition; the required application documents include a medical report.<sup>51</sup> The details of this assessment, however, do not clarify whether the medical report needs to be from a certain entity or reviewed by any committee.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

Yes, the Rou'a Assessment, Advice and Support Center under the Ministry of Education shall assess students with disabilities and learning difficulties and match them with inclusive public schools that can accommodate them.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Yes, the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs provides training and job matching services for persons with disabilities. Applicants must fill out a form and submit documentation including a medical report from a specific centre, the Qatar Rehabilitation Institute at Hamad Hospital. They are then called for an interview to assess their abilities and possible occupations.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> [Application for Social Security Pension for Persons with Disabilities](#), on Qatar's Government Portal “Hukoomi”.

<sup>52</sup> [Application for Employing Persons with Disabilities](#), on Qatar's Government Portal “Hukoomi”.

#### 4. *Disability card*

- (a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Qatar does not issue disability cards. However, the Ministry of Interior does issue the Blue Badge for parking, for which the applicant must fill out a form and submit a medical report.<sup>53</sup>

- (b) *Are they issued for ‘temporary’ disabilities as well?*

Not applicable.

- (c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

Not applicable.

#### 5. *Disability database/registry*

- (a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Qatar is about to establish a national database of people with disabilities with data on gender, nationality, age, and other information in coordination with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Shafallah Center.<sup>54</sup>

- (b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

The planned database aims to be connected.

- (c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Not applicable.

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<sup>53</sup> [Request Parking Permit for Persons with Disabilities](#), on Qatar’s Government Portal “Hukoomi”.

<sup>54</sup> Fourth meeting of ESCWA’s Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability (IGED-4), Cairo, 14-15 December 2019.



## Saudi Arabia

### 1. *Definition of disability*

(a) *What is the definition?*

Saudi Arabia's Disability Code of 2000 defines a person with a disability as "one who is totally or partially disabled with respect to his/her bodily, material, mental, communicative, academic, or psychological capabilities, to the extent that compromises the ability of that person to meet his/her normal needs as compared to his/her non-disabled counterparts".<sup>55</sup>

(b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Yes.

### 2. *Custodian agency for disability assessment*

(a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development provides a disability assessment service for those who want to receive disability services and benefits. The guidelines for the service, which can also be initiated online, explain that the process entails filling out a form and attaching the necessary documentation, which includes medical reports.<sup>56</sup>

(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development has several regional Support Services Units for Persons with Disabilities. Each Unit has a team consisting of a doctor, a physiotherapist, a psychologist, a social worker and administrative staff. This team conducts the disability assessment and reviews/verifies medical reports.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes.

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<sup>55</sup> Article 1 of [Saudi Arabia's Disability Code](#), issued in 2000.

<sup>56</sup> [Disability Assessment Request Guidelines \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, Saudi Arabia.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

Each service provider, or rehabilitation centre, has its own assessment process. Saudi Arabia is currently working on developing a national classification system based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICIDH).<sup>57</sup>

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

Children can be assessed at the various rehabilitation centres, some of which are run by the Government and others are run by disability associations.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Yes, the General Organization for Social Insurance has a separate assessment process if the injury or accident is work-related, and the applicant is covered under the social insurance system.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

Yes, every service-providing agency has its separate assessment process. There are no specific standards or criteria, and assessments are performed according to the type of disability. Saudi Arabia is currently working on developing and standardizing the methodology for assessing disability to comply with the standards outlined in ICIDH.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Yes. Saudi Arabia's "Tawafuq" programme, run by the Human Resources Development Fund, aims to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities by matching job seekers with employment options in the private sector.<sup>58</sup>

The Human Resources Development Fund is currently working on a project titled "Establishing Standards for Work Capacity Assessments: A Systematic Methodology to Match the Capacities and Abilities of Persons with Disabilities with Vacancies in the Local Market". The project aims to establish standards for persons with different disabilities including hearing, visual and mobility impairments.

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<sup>57</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO) issued the first version of the Classification in 1980 with the initial title "International Classification of Impairment, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH)", which sets international standards for the description and measurement of health and disability. It has been subject to several revisions since 1993 and was experimented in many parts of the world. The second version was adopted by all 191 States members of WHO, with a different title "International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICIDH-2)", and known also as ICF. An overview of the Classification is available at [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icfoverview\\_finalforwho10sept.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icfoverview_finalforwho10sept.pdf); and more information is available at <https://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en>.

<sup>58</sup> [Tawafuq: Employment of Persons with Disabilities Programme](#), Human Resources Development Fund, Saudi Arabia.

#### 4. Disability card

*Does the country issue disability cards? Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well? Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

Saudi Arabia does not issue a single disability ID card, but the following three different cards for different services:

- (i) The Priority Card to facilitate access to health care without any wait time, and with less paperwork. It is issued by the Ministry of Health through a special medical committee which reviews each individual case. This card is also given to other vulnerable groups such as seniors or such chronic patients as dialysis patients;<sup>59</sup>
- (ii) The Sticker Card for Traffic Facilities, known as “Mawaqef”. It is given to men and women with disabilities, citizens and legal residents, allowing them to park their car in the disability-assigned spaces and in other spaces even where parking is not permitted;<sup>60</sup>
- (iii) The Transportation Discount Card, which grants its holder, and their assistant or accompanying family member, a 50 per cent reduction of the ticket price for governmental transportation, including airlines, trains, ferries, or any other means of public transport.<sup>61</sup>

The Guidelines for Issuing the Sticker Card for Traffic Facilities and the Transportation Discount Card for the Disabled<sup>62</sup> indicate that receiving one card does not mean automatic eligibility for the other one. Both cards are granted to Saudis and non-Saudi residents alike. However, the conditions to obtain the Transportation Discount Card are slightly different for Saudis and non-Saudi residents, but in both cases, they require having a physical, sensory or intellectual disability, proven by a medical assessment, and examined by a relevant committee consisting of a doctor, psychologist, social worker, physiotherapy specialist, and special education specialist. For non-Saudis, the minimum threshold is a 50 per cent level of disability, while for Saudis no percentage is required.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> Details on the range of services provided through the Priority Card and relevant procedures are explained in the [Priority Initiative Procedural Guide \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia.

<sup>60</sup> [Conditions of granting a sticker card for traffic facilities for the disabled](#), Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, Saudi Arabia.

<sup>61</sup> [Conditions and procedures for obtaining a card to reduce the wages of passengers for the disabled](#), Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, Saudi Arabia.

<sup>62</sup> [Guidelines for Issuing the Transportation Discount Card and Sticker Card for Traffic Facilities for the Disabled \(Arabic\)](#), General Administration for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, Saudi Arabia.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid, p. 6.

## 5. Disability database/registry

### (a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Different service providers have their own assessment process, and work is currently underway to establish a unified national registry connected to all relevant agencies. Current data on disability is extracted from demographic surveys conducted by the General Authority for Statistics in 2017 using the questions set by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.<sup>64</sup>

### (b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

Saudi Arabia is currently working on establishing a unified national database and connecting it with all relevant ministries such as health, education and others.

### (c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Saudi Arabia is currently working on establishing a unified national database and connecting it with all relevant ministries such as health, education and others.

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<sup>64</sup> In 2002, the United Nations formed the [Washington Group on Disability Statistics](#) to work with the international community on implementing the suggestions proposed by the [International Seminar on the Measurement of Disability](#) to address statistical challenges to collecting valid, reliable and cross-nationally comparable data on disability, and to develop methods to improve statistics on persons with disabilities globally.

## Sudan

### 1. *Definition of disability*

(a) *What is the definition?*

The Sudan's 2017 National Act on Persons with Disabilities defines a person with a disability as “any individual who has a permanent partial or full physical, mental or sensory impairment, from birth or due to an injury, that could prevent them from interacting with various barriers in a comprehensive way”.

(b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Unclear.

### 2. *Custodian agency for disability assessment*

(a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

Per article 17 of the 2017 National Act on Persons with Disabilities, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities shall issue disability certificates in accordance with the 2008 National Medical Commission Act.<sup>65</sup>

(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

A national technical committee is formed by the Chairperson of the National Medical Commission, per the Sudan's 2008 National Medical Commission Act. Subnational committees are also formed; however, they are located in the capital city of each province and are not present in all the province.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes, as described in the table below, “in the case of objection, the claimant can file an appeal within the deadline. If the Minister of Health approves the appeal, the claimant must report in person to the National Medical Committee interview on the specified date.”

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

Per the Sudan's 2008 National Medical Commission Act, the definition of disability encompasses three elements, namely, the inability to work; having a medically determined impairment; and impairment duration.

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<sup>65</sup> National Medical Commission Act 2008 (Arabic), Federal Ministry of Health, Sudan. The National Medical Commission is a medical legal entity of the Federal Ministry of Health, located in Khartoum. Regional Medical Commissions are established in the capital cities of the Sudanese states as part of each state Ministry of Health.

While operating with the assumption that the claimant would be disadvantaged or negatively impacted by their disability, the National Medical Commission relies on medical records and medical professionals to substantiate functional limitations as a result of a medical impairment. The selection of diagnostic tests is left to the discretion of treating clinicians. As such, the Sudan’s model is impairment-focused and strictly follows the medical model.

Based on the [2008 National Medical Commission Act](#), the National Medical Commission published the General Guide of the National Medical Commission<sup>66</sup> which aims to inform medical professionals, public servants and citizens on the mandate of the National Medical Commission and to serve as a guideline for how to interact with the judiciary, insurance companies, public and private institutions, and citizens. Standard operating procedures in the guide include the procedure and its objective, the responsible entity, the area of application, and the steps involved. Procedure No. 8, which estimates the injury impairment, is explained in the table below, as outlined in the [General Guide of the National Medical Commission](#).

### Procedure No. 8: Estimates of injury impairment

<b>Objective of the procedure</b>	Determination of impairment percentage for road traffic victims, victims of work-related injuries, applicants for early retirement due to illness or injuries, eligible candidates for public employment, victims of criminal injuries and applicants for disability benefits and social support.
<b>Responsible entity</b>	Medical Committees within the National Medical Commission, in charge of estimating the percentage of impairment.
<b>Area of application</b>	Executive Office of Medical Committees.
<b>Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submitting a letter from the entity requesting the assessment;</li> <li>• Presenting support documents documenting the incident in the cases of road traffic injury, criminal injury or work-related injury, or a letter provided by the Labour Office or the Labour Court;</li> <li>• Providing final medical report by the treating physician (after medical condition has stabilized);</li> <li>• The Medical Committee considers the fracture cases only 4 to 6 months after the date of a fracture in a small bone, and more than 6 months after a fracture in a large bone;</li> <li>• Submitting all tests and X-rays of the person undergoing the assessment;</li> <li>• The claimant reports in person to the interview on the specified date;</li> <li>• The decision of the Medical Committee is given to the entity that requested the assessment;</li> <li>• In the case of objection, the claimant can file an appeal to the Minister of Health within the deadline;</li> <li>• If the Minister of Health approves the appeal, the claimant must report in person to the Appeals Committee interview on the specified date. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final upon the approval of the Minister of Health.</li> </ul>

<sup>66</sup> [General Guide of the National Medical Commission \(Arabic\)](#), Federal Ministry of Health, Sudan.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

Unclear.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

No. Per article 7 of the [2008 National Medical Commission Act](#), the same committee shall provide assessments for disability pensions.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

Article 4 of the 2017 National Act on Persons with Disabilities affirms the right to education for children with disabilities and the provision of assistive devices and technologies to facilitate their learning. However, it is unclear how students with disabilities are assessed for education in mainstream or special education schools.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

No. Per article 7 of the [2008 National Medical Commission Act](#), the same Committee shall provide assessments for employment in the public sector.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Unclear. Article 18 of the 2017 National Act on Persons with Disabilities states that specific administrative instructions shall be issued to explain the process of obtaining disability cards. *(These instructions are unavailable, so it is unclear if they have been issued or not.)*

(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

No, the definition of disability is 'permanent' and does not include temporary disabilities.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

Unclear.

#### 5. *Disability database/registry*

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

No, there is no national database for persons with disabilities.<sup>67</sup>

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

No.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

No.

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<sup>67</sup> The recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities concerning the progress made by the Sudan in meeting its commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are presented in the Committee's report "[Concluding observations on the initial report of the Sudan](#)," 10 April 2018.

## Syrian Arab Republic

### 1. Definition of disability

#### (a) What is the definition?

Law No. 34 of 2004 of the Syrian Arab Republic concerning the Disability Affairs defines a person with a disability as “a person who is unable to secure their individual and social needs by her/himself, whether in whole or in part, due to a congenital or acquired impairment in their physical or mental capacities”.<sup>68</sup>

#### (b) Is it consistent across national and local levels?

Yes.

### 2. Custodian agency for disability assessment

#### (a) Who leads the disability assessment process?

Article 2 of the [Law concerning the Disability Affairs](#) stipulates the establishment of a Central Council for Disability chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, with the Deputy Minister of Social Affairs as Deputy. Membership in the Council includes the following: Deputy Minister of Health, Deputy Minister of Education, Deputy Minister of Local Administration and Environment, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Deputy Minister of Culture, Deputy Minister of Awqaf [Islamic endowments], Head of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, three representatives from non-governmental organizations, three disability experts, and three persons with disabilities, all nominated by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, in addition to the Representative of the General Sports Federation and the Head of the Social Services Directorate in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

In addition to the Central Council for Disability, the Law also stipulates the establishment of a Local Council (or subcouncil) for Disability in each governorate. Local Councils are chaired by the Governor, with the Director of the relevant Executive Office in the Governorate as Deputy. Membership includes the following: Director of Social Affairs and Labour, Director of Health, Director of Education, Directorate of Culture, Director of Awqaf and Director of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Office in the Governorate, three persons with disabilities, three representatives of non-governmental organizations, one disability expert, one representative from the General Sports Federation and the Head of the Social Services Directorate in the Governorate (article 6).

#### (b) If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?

The Local Council for Disability shall form a Specialized Medical Committee to assess the cases of persons with disabilities and determine the type of their disability per the National Classification of

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<sup>68</sup> Article 1 of [Law No. 34 of 2004 concerning the Disability Affairs \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Syrian Arab Republic.



Disability. The Local Council submits a medical report of the assessment to the Directorate of Social Affairs and Labour in the Governorate, which in turn submits it to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (article 7-e). The Specialized Medical Committee consists of four doctors from different specialties.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes. In the event of an objection by the applicant or their family to the classification or a change in disability after a disability card is issued, the Governorate's Social Affairs Directorate refers the appeal through the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to the Central Council for Disability to be considered by the Ministry of Health.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

The Syrian Arab Republic issued its New National Classification of Disability in 2017,<sup>69</sup> which aims to standardize the disability assessment process. The New National Classification is used by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour for the disability card application process. It adopts a medical rather than social approach to assessing disability, and it identifies six disabilities, namely, visual, hearing, speech, mobility, intellectual, and psychological, in addition to the multiple disabilities. Under each type, there are descriptions of the type or severity of the impairment which the assessor can choose from. Under intellectual disabilities, for example, the IQ score is used to identify the level of intellectual impairment, while under hearing disabilities, deafness is defined as any impairment that leads to a sensorineural hearing loss of more than 70 dB, whether from congenital or acquired causes.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

Article 9(3) of the [Law concerning the Disability Affairs](#) states that each governorate will have at least one dedicated health centre that provides early disability detection and diagnosis services, and registration of children at risk of disability. Article 9(5) states that every newborn must be registered with the civil records directorate by providing a medical document stating that the doctor has conducted a comprehensive assessment of the newborn's health, including early detection of disability.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Yes. Pensions are equal among employees with or without disabilities, but in the event of retirement due to a work injury that led to a disability, the person benefits from work injury insurance and the percentage of disability is determined by the Medical Arbitration Committee at the General Organization for Social Insurance, which is different from the assessment committee for the disability card under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, which uses the National Classification of Disability.

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<sup>69</sup> Details are presented in article [“The New National Classification of Disability is Issued” \(Arabic\)](#), Damas Times website, Syrian Arab Republic, 20 November 2017.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

Yes, there is a separate assessment process at the Ministry of Education which determines the criteria for admitting children to kindergarten and primary school to enrol them in inclusive schools.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour also has an assessment process for applicants registering in special education and social welfare institutions for students with disabilities who do not meet the criteria for integration into mainstream education with the Ministry of Education.

These social welfare institutions provide different services based on the student's evaluation. The technical staff at these institutions are currently being trained on the Portage Guide to Early Education, which is set to be adopted by all relevant institutions and in all services provided, such as teaching the mainstream curriculum by the Ministry of Education with accommodations for students' needs, physiotherapy, training for life and communication skills, and vocational training for teens over 12 years. Additionally, some students with disabilities can apply to the Ministry's high-school diploma.

The Ministry of Higher Education has a policy of facilitating the admission of students with disabilities to universities based on another classification which determines what majors a student can be admitted into.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Yes, there is a separate assessment process for employment, which is run by the governmental Employment Accommodation Committee, which is tasked with determining the compatibility of persons with disabilities applying to vacant positions in the public sector. This employment process is performed according to Council of Ministers decision No. 15/M of 16 March 2017, article 4 of which states that "public authorities shall be committed to appoint persons with disabilities within a percentage not exceeding 4 per cent of the positions listed".

A job seeker submits his/her application to the Citizen Service Centre at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour indicating the public authority to which they wish to apply. If a job seeker with a disability does not know if there is a vacancy, the Centre can identify what public authorities have not reached the quota of 4 per cent and contact them accordingly. If a job is matched, the hiring public authority writes an approval letter to the governor, and the governor refers the request to the Employment Accommodation Subcommittee, which is formed in each governorate by the governor. The Subcommittee meets every 15 days, and its role is to establish the compatibility of the applicant with the job. The Subcommittee consists of the following members:

- (i) Director of Social Affairs and Labour as Chair;
- (ii) A representative of the Health Directorate;
- (iii) A representative of the Local Council for Disability in the governorate;
- (iv) A representative of the public authority to which the person will be appointed.

Once the person with a disability obtains the Subcommittee's approval of their suitability for the job, they will be appointed in a formal letter signed and certified by all the Subcommittee members. The applicant continues to complete the rest of the legal procedures and supporting documents, namely, civil record, employment status, a certified copy of a vocational training certificate issued by a rehabilitation

institute affiliated with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, or other educational certificates, and a copy of the disability card. The public authority can then issue an order for the applicant to start working.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yes, disability cards are issued based on the National Classification of Disability.

(b) *Are they issued for ‘temporary’ disabilities as well?*

No, disability cards are not issued for temporary disabilities. The Medical Committee usually grants the request for a disability card once they are sure that the disability is permanent. In some cases, children under the age of five are not granted a disability card for some types of disabilities to ensure the disability is permanent.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

They are issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in coordination with the Ministry of Health. The cards also indicate whether the person requires an assistant or not (article 14 of the [Law concerning the Disability Affairs](#)).

The documents required to obtain a disability card include a residence document, two personal photos and a copy of the applicant’s ID, with no fees or monetary costs. The documents are submitted to the Directorate of Social Affairs and Labour in the governorate, and then referred to the Medical Committee for the Assessment of Persons with Disabilities at the Health Directorate. The Committee completes a decision form and sends it to the governorate’s Social Affairs Directorate to grant the card.

#### 5. *Disability database/registry*

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Article 9(6) of the [Law concerning the Disability Affairs](#) states that the Decision Support Centre in the Ministry of Health is responsible for establishing and updating a disability database in close collaboration with the Central Statistics Office. However, this database has not been established yet.

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

A national disability database has not been created yet; however, the disability card database is currently being digitalized to establish a central database under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, and to connect it to the local Social Affairs Directorates in each governorate as the agencies issuing disability cards. This is the first step to connect this database with the Ministry of Health’s database; the next step will include connecting it to the databases of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, which are represented in the Central Council for Disability.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Per the Law concerning the Disability Affairs, the Local Councils for Disability are mandated to feed information and reports on disability assessments to the Central Council for Disability. However, current information systems are not connected. An initial step to establish a web-based process to enter information on current disability cards has been established, and work is currently underway to establish an integrated system connecting the assessment process and data of the Ministries of Health, Education, Higher Education, Social Affairs and Labour, and more. At a later stage, the plan is to connect these subsystems on an application programming interface (API) allowing the integration of different data, where each beneficiary has a central ID number that shows all services and databases they are registered in, including disability and social protection.

## Tunisia

### 1. *Definition of disability*

#### (a) *What is the definition?*

Tunisia's Directive Law No. 83 of 2005 on the Advancement and Protection of Disabled Persons defines persons with disabilities as "every person with a permanent impairment in their physical, intellectual or sensory abilities and capacities, whether from birth or acquired, which limits their ability to perform one or more daily basic personal or social activities and limits their opportunity to integrate in society".<sup>70</sup>

It should be noted that a law was issued in 2016 to stipulate the replacement of the term "disabled persons" with the term "persons with disability" throughout the text of the Directive Law.<sup>71</sup>

#### (b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

Yes.

### 2. *Custodian agency for assessment*

#### (a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The Ministry of Social Affairs leads the process, in close collaboration with the Regional Committees for Persons with Disabilities.

#### (b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

Administrative Order No. 3086 of 2005,<sup>72</sup> issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs, stipulates the creation of a regional committee for persons with disabilities in each province charged with assessing disabilities and issuing disability cards. Each regional committee comprises the Regional Director in charge of Social Affairs (or representative) as Committee Chair, in addition to the following members:

- (i) Two doctors appointed by the Minister of Public Health;
- (ii) The regional coordinating physician for school and university medicine, and the coordinating physician for the regional rehabilitation unit, to review school integration applications for children with disabilities;

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<sup>70</sup> Article 2 of [Directive Law No. 83 of 2005 on the Advancement and Protection of Persons with Disabilities \(Arabic\)](#), Tunisia.

<sup>71</sup> Article 3 of [Law No. 41 of 2016 for the Amendment of Law No. 83 of 2005 \(Arabic\)](#), Tunisia.

<sup>72</sup> Article 1 of [Administrative Order No. 3086 of 2005 on the Creation of Regional Committees for Persons with Disabilities and Determination of Disability Criteria and Conditions for Issuing Disability Cards \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Social Affairs, Tunisia. It should be noted that this Administrative Order was amended pursuant to [Order No. 1859 of 2006 for the Amendment of Order No. 3086 of 2005 \(Arabic\)](#).

- (iii) Three staff members appointed by the Minister of Social Affairs;
- (iv) A representative from the Regional Department of Education and Training;
- (v) A representative from the Regional Department of employment;
- (vi) A representative from the National Retirement Fund;
- (vii) A representative from the Social Security Fund;
- (viii) A representative from the National Health Insurance Fund;
- (ix) Two representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities [or organizations for the care of persons with disabilities], appointed by the governor.

The chair of the Regional Committee for Persons with Disabilities can also invite any person whose presence is beneficial to the Committee's meetings.

The Regional Committee for Persons with Disabilities is charged with considering the following and expressing its opinion thereon:

- (i) Files referred to the Committee to confirm the status of “person with disability” and determine the nature and degree of the disability, the type and validity period of the disability card, and the benefits and privileges conferred through the card, according to the applicant’s needs and economic and social status;
- (ii) Requests referred to the Committee for assistive technology and devices and technical and personal assistance needed for integration;
- (iii) Applications regarding children with disabilities who are candidates for integration into the mainstream school system, to direct them towards the educational and training institutions that suit them;
- (iv) Applications of persons with disabilities who are candidates for vocational training, rehabilitation and employment, to direct them towards the relevant integration programmes that suit them;
- (v) Applications of persons with disabilities who request living with a foster family or in a residential and care institution for people with disabilities;
- (vi) Applications for home care services for persons with disabilities who are unable to travel or have restricted mobility.

The Regional Committee meets at least twice a month and when needed, upon the invitation by the Chair. It informs applicants of final decisions within a maximum of 45 days from the application date.

The Regional Committee is required to submit a report every two months (within 15 days of the end of each two-month period) to the Minister of Social Affairs.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes. If a request for a disability card is denied or another requested service was not granted, the applicant can request that the decision be reconsidered, through a letter sent by certified mail to the regional administration charged with social affairs.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

Law No.83 of 2005 and Administrative Order No. 3086 of 2005 outline the disability assessment standards and the conditions for issuing disability cards.

In assessing each application, the Committee considers all medical, functional, psychological, social, and economic dimensions of the disability, including the following:

- (i) Cause of the impairment;
- (ii) Nature and degree of the impairment;
- (iii) Impact of the impairment on the person's functions and autonomy;
- (iv) The person's needs for rehabilitation, assistive technology and devices, technical support, and a personal assistant;
- (v) The person's ability to conduct basic and personal daily activities;
- (vi) The person's ability to participate in social and professional life and integrate in society.

The relevant entities are required to fill the following forms for the purpose of assessing the disability and issuing a disability card:<sup>73</sup>

- (i) *Disability assessment schedule*: filled out by a doctor to assess the activities of persons with disability and their participation in communication, mobility, self-care, domestic life, relationships and interactions with others, major domains of life and social/community life. The assessment form lists the following levels of difficulty in performing an activity or task:
  - 0 = no difficulty;
  - 1 = some difficulty sometimes: slowness or slight difficulties in performing functions;
  - 2 = clearly reduced activity, with the need for assistive devices or tools and no need for personal assistance;

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<sup>73</sup> It should be noted that [Order No. 3086 of 2005 \(Arabic\)](#) included three annexes comprising the forms to be filled out for the disability assessment and the issuance of disability cards in Tunisia. That order, however, has been amended pursuant to [Order No. 1859 of 2006 for the Amendment of Order No. 3086 of 2005 \(Arabic\)](#), which stipulates the removal of annexes 1, 2 and 3 and their replacement with the following forms: disability assessment schedule; medical certificate for requesting a disability card; and case status. The three blank forms are included at the end of order No. 1859.

- 3 = serious activity restriction, with the need for part-time personal assistance;
- 4 = very limited autonomy, with the need for full-time personal assistance;
- 9 = not applicable: case assessment is not possible;

The form uses a formula to convert the total score into a percentage on the basis of which the applicant obtains one of the three types of disability cards (mild/moderate/severe):

- 0-9 per cent = no disability;
  - 10-19 per cent = mild disability;
  - 20-59 per cent = moderate disability;
  - 60 per cent and more = severe disability;
- (ii) *Medical certificate for requesting a disability card*: filled out by a doctor; it comprises questions to identify any illness, injury or medical issue, their cause (hereditary, congenital, acquired) and possible prognosis (stable, aggravating, improving). It also poses questions to determine the degree of organ injury and body functioning, and their impact on autonomy per the above-mentioned levels of difficulty (0-1-2-3-4);
- (iii) *Case status*: can be filled out by a social worker (or someone else); it assesses the person's educational level, employment status, coverage by social protection, and any other relevant information.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

Unclear.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Unclear if there is a separate assessment process for disability pensions, or if the same Regional Committee for Persons with Disabilities is responsible for it.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

No, because the same Regional Committee for Persons with Disabilities conducts a comprehensive assessment that includes an educational component.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

No, because the same Regional Committee for Persons with Disabilities conducts a comprehensive assessment that includes a vocational component.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yes.



(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

No, since [Law No. 83 of 2005 on the Advancement and Protection of Persons with Disabilities](#) defines persons with disabilities as “every person with a permanent impairment in their physical, intellectual or sensory abilities and capacities”.

(c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

The answer to this question is provided in the previous section “Disability assessment system”, which explains the disability assessment process adopted for the issuance of disability cards, including the required documents.

#### *5. Disability database/registry*

(a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Unclear.

(b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

Unclear.

(c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Unclear.

## United Arab Emirates

### 1. *Definition of disability*

#### (a) *What is the definition?*

Federal Law No. 29 of 2006 in Respect of the Rights of the Disabled is the main federal legislation governing disability assessment and determination processes in the United Arab Emirates. It defines persons with disabilities as “every person who has a full or partial deficiency or impairment, permanent or temporary, in their physical, sensory, mental, communicative, educational or psychological capabilities to an extent that reduces the possibility of meeting their normal needs compared to their counterparts who do not have a disability”.<sup>74</sup>

The Law was amended in 2009 to replace the term “disability” with “special needs” and the term “disabled person” with “person with special needs”.<sup>75</sup>

#### (b) *Is it consistent across national and local levels?*

The United Arab Emirates has a federal system, and each Emirate has its own local legislative process as well. In both Dubai<sup>76</sup> and Sharjah<sup>77</sup> for example, local legislation defines persons with disabilities in accordance with the definition set forth in the United Nations [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD), namely, as “every person who has long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”.

### 2. *Custodian agency for disability assessment*

#### (a) *Who leads the disability assessment process?*

The assessment process is performed through the Specialized Committee for Health and Rehabilitation Services for Persons with Special Needs, under the Ministry of Health.

#### (b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

Article 11 of [Federal Law No. 29 of 2006](#) states that a Specialized Committee for Health and Rehabilitation Services for Persons with Special Needs shall be created and chaired by the

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<sup>74</sup> Article 1 of [Federal Law No. 29 of 2006 in Respect of the Rights of the Disabled](#) (which became Rights of People with Special Needs), United Arab Emirates.

<sup>75</sup> [Federal Law No. 14 of 2009 for the Amendment of some Provisions of Federal Law No. 29 of 2006 in Respect of the Rights of People with Special Needs \(Arabic\)](#), United Arab Emirates.

<sup>76</sup> [Law No. 2 of 2014 on the Protection of the Rights of People with Disabilities in Dubai Emirate \(Arabic\)](#), Dubai Emirate.

<sup>77</sup> [Emiri Decree No. 48 of 2016 on the Restructuring of Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services \(Arabic\)](#), Sharjah Emirate.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health with members representing the relevant authorities. The Minister of Health shall set forth the Committee's work and meeting system. The Committee shall specifically carry out the following functions:

- (i) Providing diagnostic, rehabilitation and treatment services to empower persons with special needs;
  - (ii) Establishing early diagnostic and intervention programmes, in addition to organizing public health and awareness campaigns;
  - (iii) Providing human resources specialized in the different fields of special needs;
  - (iv) Preparing national studies to identify the causes leading to special needs, their impacts and the ways of prevention, and disseminating such studies to all relevant authorities;
  - (v) Submitting periodic reports to the Minister of Health to prepare the ground for the submission of those reports to the Council of Ministers to take the appropriate measures.
- (c) *Is there an appeals process?*

Yes.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

The United Arab Emirates has released two major strategic documents outlining the country's intention to move away from a medical approach on disability to a social one, namely, the National Policy for Empowering People of Determination 2017<sup>78</sup> and the National Standard Classification of Disabilities/People of Determination 2018.<sup>79</sup> However, the two strategy documents have not yet succeeded in shifting the current assessment process, which is still reliant upon a medical approach.

The National Strategy for Empowering People of Determination outlines four objectives, namely, achieving social inclusion, ensuring active participation, enhancing equal opportunities, and supporting individuals and their families to perform their roles.

The National Standard Classification of Disabilities/People of Determination does not refer to the World Health Organization (WHO) International Classification of Functioning, Disability and

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<sup>78</sup> [National Policy for Empowering People of Determination 2017 \(English\)](#), Ministry of Community Development, United Arab Emirates.

<sup>79</sup> [National Standard Classification of Disabilities/People of Determination 2018 \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Community Development, United Arab Emirates.

Health (ICIDH)<sup>80</sup> and Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 (WHO DAS 2.0).<sup>81</sup> It is instead based on four sources, namely, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (which was issued in the United States of America in 1975 then updated in 2004 and 2015),<sup>82</sup> the American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition 2013 (DSM-5TM),<sup>83</sup> the United Nations CRPD, and the United Arab Emirates Federal Law No. 29 of 2006 in Respect of the Rights of People with Special Needs.

The National Classification lists 11 types of disabilities and their definition and subcategories, in addition to the required documentation and eligibility for services. For all 11 types, the required documentation is usually a report from a health-care professional, either from a certified physician, psychologist or clinical phycologist, speech therapist or from another specialist such as a learning disabilities specialist, special education specialist, and others.

For example, for intellectual disabilities, the application requires a psychological and educational assessment report from a certified psychologist or clinical psychologist, which should assess mental abilities, adaptive behaviour, medical condition, accompanying or behavioural disorders, if any, and medical history.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

Unclear.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Unclear.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

Unclear.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Unclear.

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<sup>80</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO) issued the first version of the Classification in 1980 with the initial title “International Classification of Impairment, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH)”, which sets international standards for the description and measurement of health and disability. It has been subject to several revisions since 1993 and was experimented in many parts of the world. The second version was adopted by all 191 States members of WHO, with a different title “International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICIDH-2)”, and known also as ICF. An overview of the Classification is available at [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icfoverview\\_finalforwho10sept.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icfoverview_finalforwho10sept.pdf); and more information is available at <https://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en>.

<sup>81</sup> Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 (WHODAS 2.0), World Health Organization (WHO).

<sup>82</sup> Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), United States of America.

<sup>83</sup> Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5TM), 2013, American Psychiatric Association.

#### 4. *Disability card*

- (a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yes.

- (b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

Unclear.

- (c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

The Ministry of Community Development issues disability cards or cards for people of determination. The applicant simply needs a medical report confirming the disability (whether physical, sensory, intellectual or psychological).<sup>84</sup>

#### 5. *Disability database/registry*

- (a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

Unclear.

- (b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

Unclear.

- (c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Unclear.

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<sup>84</sup> [Process of issuing a card for people of determination \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Community Development, United Arab Emirates.

## Yemen

### 1. Definition of disability

#### (a) What is the definition?

Yemen's Law No. 61 of 1999 on the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled defines persons with disabilities as "every person, male or female, who has been proved by a medical examination to suffer from a permanent total or partial disability due to an impairment, injury or illness that has rendered them unable to learn or engage in any activity wholly or partially".<sup>85</sup>

#### (b) Is it consistent across national and local levels?

Yes.

### 2. Custodian agency for disability assessment

#### (a) Who leads the disability assessment process?

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is the main custodian of the assessment process, with different entities under its authority performing different assessments.

By Republican Decision No. 5 of 1991, Yemen established the Supreme National Committee for the Care of the Disabled,<sup>86</sup> which is chaired by the Prime Minister, with the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour as the Deputy. Members include the Minister of Health, Undersecretary of Social Affairs and Labour, Undersecretary of Information, and General Director of Social Rehabilitation (in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour).

This Supreme National Committee for the Care of the Disabled is mandated with setting the higher-level strategic direction of policies on the care and rehabilitation of people with disabilities and their full integration in society. However, the analysis of the situation outlined in the country's National Disability Strategy 2014-2018,<sup>87</sup> showed that the General Administration for Social Rehabilitation at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour charged with the executive functions of the Supreme National Committee has not been effective in past years; therefore, the Strategy recommends, under required measures for the implementation of the Strategy (para. 6), to restructure the Supreme National Committee for the Care of the Disabled and further enhance it as a cross-sectoral Committee especially that it has a high-level representation and is chaired by the Prime Minister.

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<sup>85</sup> Article 2 of Law No. 61 of 1999 on the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled (Arabic), Yemen.

<sup>86</sup> Republican Decision No. 5 of 1991 on the Establishment and Formation of the Supreme National Committee for the Care of the Disabled and its Terms of Reference (Arabic), Yemen.

<sup>87</sup> National Disability Strategy 2014-2018 (Arabic), Handicap Care and Rehabilitation Fund, Yemen. The Strategy was prepared by a team of Yemeni governmental and non-governmental disability experts, with support from the World Bank.

The General Administration for Social Rehabilitation under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour makes the assessment decision, while the Rehabilitation Centres for the Disabled provide rehabilitation and vocational training services. The care and rehabilitation services are defined in the Executive Regulations of the Law on the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled, as “the services and activities that enable persons with disabilities to better exercise their life activities, on physical, mental, psychological, social and occupational levels”.<sup>88</sup>

(i) *Assessment process by the General Administration for Social Rehabilitation*

The [Executive Regulations of the Law on the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled](#) list the assessment measures to be taken by the relevant authority in order to provide care and rehabilitation services (article 5), which are as follows:

- Provide a rehabilitation and training request form to the applicant and help them fill it out;
- Register the applicant’s name and all their data in the relevant record;
- Inform the applicant, or their guardian, of all the services provided by the relevant administration, rehabilitation centres, the union of organizations for persons with disabilities, and civil society associations;
- Refer the applicant to a specialist doctor to perform the medical examination according to the relevant form;
- Refer the applicant to an occupational specialist for an assessment to suggest the job(s) that the applicant can perform, considering their personal preferences and wishes;
- Take the necessary measures to provide the applicant with an assistive device to support their rehabilitation and training if the assessment process shows they need one;
- Conduct a comprehensive social assessment by the social worker/specialist per the relevant form;
- Prepare the comprehensive portfolio per the relevant form.

Applicants must meet the definition of disability provided in the [Law on the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled](#); they should not have a severe intellectual disability that would prevent them from benefiting from rehabilitation and training programmes ([Executive Regulations](#), article 6).

Once the applicants have completed the assessment process, the Administration refers them to the relevant rehabilitation centre for services. The centres are mandated to do the following ([Executive Regulations](#), article 12):

- Review the applicant’s file, which includes their social, educational, occupational, medical, and psychological assessment reports provided by the General Administration to determine their level of disability and rehabilitation needs;

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<sup>88</sup> Article 2 of [Prime Minister Decision No. 284 of 2002 containing the Executive Regulations of Law No. 61 of 1999 on the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled \(Arabic\)](#), Yemen. Per article 1 of this Decision, those regulations are called Executive Regulations of the Law on the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

- Accept the applicant's file and prepare a rehabilitation and training plan, including the occupation they will be trained on, the duration of training and the total cost of rehabilitation and training;
- Refer the applicant to the training within two months of their file being accepted;
- Train the applicant on their chosen occupation and assess if they can continue training on it;
- Issue a Training and Rehabilitation Certificate stating the occupation they are able to perform once they pass the training exam for the relevant occupation;
- Issue a replacement certificate if the trainee loses it, provided a legal proof of the loss is presented.

Once a person with disabilities acquires the Training and Rehabilitation Certificate, they are exempt from any health exam that might be needed when they apply for the job they have been trained for ([Executive Regulations](#), article 13).

Also, once a person with disabilities successfully acquires a Training Certificate, they are automatically registered as a job seeker with the Ministry of Civil Service and Insurance, and they receive support to find a job ([Executive Regulations](#), article 15).

(ii) *Assessment process by the Handicap Care and Rehabilitation Fund*

Yemen established the Handicap Care and Rehabilitation Fund<sup>89</sup> in 2000. It is headed by the Minister of Social Affairs and its members include the Undersecretary of Finance, Undersecretary of Planning, three representatives from the National Union of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, and three representatives from the business community.

The Fund is charged with collecting and managing funds dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. It provides financing for public or non-governmental institutions that run programmes for persons with disabilities. It also provides services to individuals directly, including funding for health services, medical procedures, assistive devices and technologies, and educational services.

The application process for individuals includes a number of criteria and documentation<sup>90</sup> requiring the following from the applicant:

- Have a disability (mobility, intellectual, sensory – deaf, mute, blind) or be at risk of a disability;
- Provide a personal ID card;

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<sup>89</sup> [Law No. 2 of 2000 on the Handicap Care and Rehabilitation Fund \(Arabic\)](#), Yemen.

<sup>90</sup> [Guide to the services of the Handicap Care and Rehabilitation Fund: Services provided to individuals \(Arabic\)](#), Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Yemen.



- Provide the “final assessment” outlining the percentage/level of impairment, which is based on completion of the following forms: application form requesting medical assessment, case form,<sup>91</sup> assessment forms, and final medical decision form.

(b) *If there is a medical or assessment committee, what is its composition?*

No, there is no medical or central assessment committee. A medical committee in each governorate comprising a group of doctors conducts the assessment.

(c) *Is there an appeals process?*

The available laws and instructions do not mention anything on an appeals process. But according to Yemeni officials, it is possible to appeal the decision.

### 3. *Disability assessment system*

(a) *How is disability assessed?*

Each service provider has their own assessment process. These providers include the General Administration for Social Rehabilitation, the Handicap Care and Rehabilitation Fund, the Social Development Fund, and the General Authority for Social Security.

The assessment by the General Administration for Social Rehabilitation includes a social and occupational, and possibly a psychological, assessment in addition to the medical assessment. The Handicap Care and Rehabilitation Fund is less comprehensive and focuses on the medical exam.

The Social Development Fund also provides services to persons with disabilities, including educational, rehabilitation, early intervention programmes, and childhood protection;<sup>92</sup> however, the assessment process is not outlined on their website. In that regard, the [National Disability Strategy 2014-2018](#), which presented an analysis of the social security network in Yemen identifying challenges and obstacles (para. 5.2.6), indicated the lack of coordination or sharing of data between the Social Development Fund and the Handicap Care and Rehabilitation Fund. The analysis noted that even though the Social Development Fund reports supporting over 150,000 persons with disabilities, it is unclear who these beneficiaries are and how targeted they were.

It is important to mention that the [National Disability Strategy 2014-2018](#) provides an in-depth analysis and recommendations on how the country can move away from the medical model to the social model for understanding disability. Hence, the intention and a broad blueprint exists for this shift, but undoubtedly it is faltering given the ongoing conflict in the country.

(b) *Is there a separate assessment process for children?*

The laws do not mention a separate process for children. The [National Disability Strategy 2014-2018](#) also mentions, in the analysis of the current health-sector situation (para. 5.2.1), that there is a “lack of early detection, diagnostic and intervention services for young children with disabilities”.

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<sup>91</sup> This could refer to a social case form, but it is unclear from both the Executive Regulations and the website.

<sup>92</sup> [Services for Persons with Special Needs \(Arabic\)](#), Social Fund for Development, Yemen.

(c) *Is there a separate assessment process for disability pensions under social insurance?*

Yes, the General Authority for Social Security, headed by the Minister of Civil Service and Insurance, has a separate assessment committee and its own medical committee to process Disability Pension requests.<sup>93</sup> To be eligible, the applicant's injury must have led to the loss of their ability to perform any job/occupation and they must have a minimum of 70 per cent disability. They must submit a medical report, which the Authority's own medical committee will review and either approve or reject. The applicant also must be under the age of retirement and must have paid their monthly contribution for a minimum of 60 months, in addition to other conditions.

(d) *Is there a separate assessment process for education?*

The [National Disability Strategy 2014-2018](#) points out the challenges of providing education for the general population given Yemen's high illiteracy rate and even more challenges of providing education for children with disabilities especially that educational and vocational learning centres are limited and concentrated in urban areas.

The Social Fund for Development, which relies heavily on international donors, supports a number of educational programmes for children with disabilities implemented by local non-governmental organizations.

(e) *Is there a separate assessment process for employment?*

Persons with disabilities can apply for the programmes offered by the rehabilitation centres to receive training as mentioned above.

#### 4. *Disability card*

(a) *Does the country issue disability cards?*

Yemen does not issue a disability card for persons with disabilities. Rather, article 31 of [Law No. 61 of 1999 on the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled](#) stipulates that a person's disability shall be noted in their personal ID card, family ID card, job ID card, or passport.

However, for employment purposes, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour issues a Training Certificate for those who have successfully completed a vocational training, and an Experience Certificate for a person with disability who can showcase their proficiency in a particular occupation, without necessarily enrolling in one of the Ministry's training programmes ([Law No. 61](#), article 7).

(b) *Are they issued for 'temporary' disabilities as well?*

Not applicable.

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<sup>93</sup> [Disability Pension \(Arabic\)](#), General Authority for Social Security, Yemen.

- (c) *Who issues them? What documentation does an applicant need?*

Not applicable.

#### 5. *Disability database/registry*

- (a) *Is there a national registry or database for persons with disabilities? Is it digital?*

The [National Disability Strategy 2014-2018](#) notes that there is no national database for persons with disabilities, which negatively affects the ability of decision makers to plan strategically and realistically. It also notes the lack of coordination and information sharing between the various service providers, the rehabilitation centres, the General Administration for Social Rehabilitation, the Handicap Care and Rehabilitation Fund, the Fund for Social Development, and the General Authority for Social Security.

- (b) *Does the assessment process automatically feed information into the registry?*

Not applicable.

- (c) *Is it connected to different service providers? Across local/national levels?*

Not applicable.



