

Right to Health and Access to Health Services for Older Persons in Jordan

1. National Laws and Strategies the Jordanian National Strategy for Senior Citizens (2018-2022) addresses the rights and welfare of older individuals. It outlines strategic objectives and initiatives aimed at improving their living conditions, enhancing their participation in decision-making processes, and providing preventive and curative healthcare services. Furthermore, the Jordanian Constitution was amended in 2011 to incorporate a provision that specifically protects and safeguards motherhood, childhood, and old age.

<https://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/ncfa-modernising-national-strategy-elderly>

<https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/fourth/Jordan.pdf>

2.

While Jordan ensures equal access for seniors regarding social programs, utilities, housing, and health lessons, challenges remain. Limited elder care, partial social protection deficits, and weekly/uneven water access in cities/rural areas respectively pose issues despite initiatives. Current housing consists of 11 facilities for 500 needing unavailable care. The strategy focuses on day centers and workshops meeting elders' unique education needs though gaps persist in aspects like services and assistance. Overall, rights progress exists but continued work on shortfalls such as care, benefits, resources, and support options are still needed.

Scope of the right

3.

a) Non-Discrimination: The Jordanian Constitution protects the rights of older persons and mandates equal treatment for all Jordanians before the law, prohibiting discrimination based on race, language, or religion.

b) Health Facilities and Services: Jordan has made considerable progress in ensuring access to healthcare for the elderly. The National Strategy for Senior Citizens (2018-2022) includes initiatives for preventive and curative healthcare. However, challenges

persist, such as the emergence of nursing homes and limited specialized geriatric services.

c) Quality and Accessibility of Health Facilities: Critical health facilities in Jordan face issues of overcrowding and inadequate equipment, potentially compromising the quality of essential health services. USAID collaborates with the Ministries of Health and Public Works and Housing to identify and address major infrastructure needs.

d) Legal Capacity: Jordanian legislation protects individuals' rights to legal capacity and enables them to exercise their civil rights, as stipulated in Article 43 of the Civil Code.

e) Access to Remedies and Redress: While specific mechanisms for redress when an older person's right to health is violated are not explicitly mentioned, the Jordanian Constitution and its amendments protect the rights of the elderly. This implies that older people have the same access to legal remedies as other citizens when their rights are infringed upon, but more detailed information is needed to fully address this aspect.

<https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/fourth/Jordan.pdf>

4.

The Jordanian Constitution safeguards older persons' rights, protecting motherhood, childhood, and old age from exploitation. Jordan has added age to the ILO Convention on Discrimination in Employment. Universal health coverage aims to ensure everyone can access quality health services without financial hardship. However, critical health facilities face overcrowding and inadequate equipment challenges potentially compromising services. USAID collaborates with Ministries of Health and Housing to address infrastructure needs. The Civil Code protects individuals' legal capacity to exercise civil rights upon reaching majority age of sound mind without deprivation. While specific mechanisms for remedies when older persons' health rights are violated in Jordan are not explicitly mentioned, the Constitution provides a legal framework protecting elderly rights.

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Policies and programs for seniors' healthcare must recognize older adults' diversity in needs, abilities, and experiences. A one-size-fits-all approach will not support all. Steps should ensure private sector involvement does not limit or disadvantage seniors' access to services based on age. Laws and policies must prohibit all forms of age discrimination against seniors seeking medical care. Non-government organizations providing care

require strict regulation and monitoring to uphold rights. Discrimination will not be tolerated. All healthcare parties, including private providers, should cooperate and coordinate efforts jointly to fulfill seniors' right to care. Non-state agencies must respect their rights and repair any harm from unfulfilled duties. Oversight and accountability across all sectors Pro protect seniors.

https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/twelfth/INPUTS%20UNS/ILO%20comments%20on%20Guiding%20Questions_Normative_OEWG11topics.pdf

7.

Good Practices to Uphold Healthcare Rights

Adopting international standards and guidelines is considered a good practice to ensure the human right to health for older persons. Countries that look to standards set out globally can help uphold consistent protections. Developing inclusive policies is also beneficial, as it allows for consideration of each senior's unique needs and circumstances. Tailored approaches have the potential to better serve the diverse population of older adults.

https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/fourteenth%20session/OEWG14_guiding%20questions%20right%20to%20health%20and%20access%20to%20health%20services_normative%20inputs.pdf

Challenges to Implementing Protections

Economic constraints present a challenge, as full and proper implementation of the normative framework of rights requires adequate resources. Without sufficient funding, some aspects of upholding healthcare standards may fall short. There is also sometimes a lack of awareness or understanding surrounding the significance of legal procedures established through mechanisms like human rights treaty bodies. Improving education around existing protections could help address this issue. A further challenge is non-compliance, as failure to abide by human rights obligations remains a weakness limiting their effectiveness globally. Stronger enforcement is needed to overcome this barrier.

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/development/emd/session7/A_HRC_EMRTD_7_CRP.3.pdf