



Launch of National Action Plan for Older Persons in Lebanon

UNFPA Lebanon

Opening Statement

Esteemed Guests,

Your Excellency Minister Hector Hajjar - Minister of Social Affairs

Ms. Sara Salman - Population Affairs Officer at ESCWA

It is with great honor and pleasure that I join you today to launch Lebanon's National Action Plan for Older Persons. This milestone comes at a critical time in the history of Lebanon and is an essential step towards addressing the growing needs of a societal group that has the right to respect, empowerment, and dignified living.

Older persons in Lebanon constitute a significant and growing proportion of the population as per the most recent studies. However, this population faces heightened vulnerabilities, which is further exacerbated by the different multidimensional challenges, which include the economic crisis, security challenges, and the barriers to access essential services such as healthcare, housing, and financial security. Older persons in Lebanon have endured different wars, which necessitates their protection from risks, which are particularly elevated during times of crises.

Today's launch of this action plan demonstrates a collective commitment to address these challenges head-on, considering the prioritization of this plan on the support to mental and physical health, ensuring economic and social security, promoting their active participation and engagement in society, strengthening intergenerational solidarity, and creating of a safe, supportive environment, along with the prevention of violence and abuse, particularly against older women, which lies in the heart of UNFPA's mandate on the elimination of gender based violence.

UNFPA takes this opportunity to reiterate its steadfast commitment to support the Government of Lebanon in achieving its commitments under the International Conference on Population and Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The life-course approach championed by ICPD underscores the importance of addressing needs across every stage of life, ensuring dignity and equity for all, including older persons.

Empowering older persons is an investment in our collective future, and by creating and nurturing an inclusive and supportive environment where older persons can thrive, we build a more just, equitable and sustainable society for all. Finally, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of Social Affairs, ESCWA, and all partners and stakeholders who have contributed to the development of this National Action Plan, and we aspire to proceed in its implementation.