A3 Policy Checklist User Guide

56 POLICIES, 113 COUNTRIES, 1 CHECKLIST

The Adolescent Atlas for Action (A3) is a suite of tools that summarizes the lives and needs of adolescents around the world to promote evidence-based decision-making. Through accessible and easy-to-grasp data just one click away, the A3 bridges the gap between decisionmakers and evidence to inform policies and programs.

The A3 Policy Checklist, created by the Population Council’s GIRL Center, features a curated list of national policies relevant to adolescents under 9 thematic domains, and whether countries have enacted each policy. The checklist presents a snapshot of commitments made to achieving adolescent wellbeing through adolescent-focused policies.

As of July 2022, the Policy Checklist includes 56 policies, which were tracked for 113 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). This list of policies is not exhaustive, and additional policies will be added to the checklist every year.

This guide provides a step-by-step overview of how to use the A3 Policy Checklist. To learn more about our methodology for curating the list of policies, refer to our Methodology Brief.

HOW TO USE THE A3 POLICY CHECKLIST

- Begin by selecting a thematic domain under “Domain” and a geographic region under “Select a region” (Figure 1)
Once a “domain” and “region” are selected, the checklist will populate with a list of domain-specific policies (Figure 2).

Figure 1 Selecting a domain and region

Each square represents the status of a policy in each country:

- Policy is present
- Policy is not present
- No data available

Choose a policy, navigate to a country of interest and hover over the corresponding square (Figure 3). A dialogue box will appear with the country name, the policy of interest, and the corresponding policy status as noted above.
Figure 3 Cambodia has a policy confirming that sterilization is legal for contraceptive purposes.

- Notes are included in the dialogue box in cases where a policy is technically present according to a database or official documentation but has important exceptions or considerations (see Figure 4).

Figure 4 Mongolia has a policy confirming that sterilization is legal for contraceptive purpose—however, only female sterilization is available.

- Click the square for more information about the policy’s applicability to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), relevance to adolescent health and development, and hyperlinked references (Figure 5).
To download the policy checklist data, click the “Download Data” button for the spreadsheet version of the checklist.

In the downloadable spreadsheet version of the checklist, “1” indicates a policy is present. A blank cell indicates that a policy is not present, and “n/a” indicates that no data is available. Cells with notes indicate the policy is present according to a database or official documentation, but there are important exceptions written into the policy that should be considered. See the table below for more examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“1”</th>
<th>“n/a”</th>
<th>Cells that are blank</th>
<th>Cells that contain notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy is present according to the database cited</td>
<td>Policy was not mentioned in the major databases used; an Internet search was conducted and no official documentation of the policy could be confirmed</td>
<td>Policy was not recorded in the country</td>
<td>Policy was present according to the database and/or conducted Internet searches, but there are important exceptions written into the policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Abortion is legal in cases of rape.” Lesotho</td>
<td>“Female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C) is illegal to perform on any woman or girl.” Madagascar</td>
<td>“Abortion is legal in cases of rape.” Madagascar</td>
<td>“There is a policy on protections based on forms of gender identity and gender expression.” Madagascar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Lesotho, there is policy supporting that abortion is legal in cases of rape.

In Lebanon, it is unclear if there is or is not an official policy that makes FGM/C illegal. This may be because FGM/C is not a practice common in Lebanon, and thus the policy indicator is not particularly relevant.

In Madagascar, there is no policy supporting that abortion is legal in cases of rape.

In India, there is technically a policy on protections based on forms of gender identity and gender expression, but their definition of “transgender” may exclude a large part of the population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://socialjustice.nic">http://socialjustice.nic</a> 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For any additional inquiries, please contact us at a3@popcouncil.org

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