



Observation Report

Political Participation of Voters with Disabilities in the 2022 Lebanese Parliamentary Elections

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It also wishes to express gratitude to the volunteers for joining the ranks of the campaign, and for making exceptional efforts to make its work a success¹.

¹ See: Name list of volunteers of the “My Right” Campaign 2022 in Annex No. 3.

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About the Lebanese Union for People with Physical Disabilities (LUPD)

A non-governmental, non-profit organization, founded in 1981, by persons with disabilities to advance this category towards access to the legitimate rights stipulated in international covenants and towards equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in society. The Union is a grassroots, non-sectarian human rights organization, active in Lebanon and the Arab world to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in the decision-making process, and to shift the discourse from a framework of charity and exclusion to a framework of rights and inclusion. During the past two decades, the Union has focused on urging stakeholders and influential people to implement Law No. 220/2000 through the issuance of implementing decrees by relevant ministries related to basic rights, especially the right to access, decent work, education and learning, inclusive environment, and political and civil rights.

The Union works to defend the rights of persons with disabilities, their access to equal opportunities and a quality life, and to ensure that their basic needs (health, education, work and socio-economic inclusion) are respected and protected. The Union also seeks, through its activities and projects, to spread the culture of inclusion and the right to participation, and to raise disability issues as an integral part of human rights. The work of the Union is based on two main areas: advocacy and rights work aimed at raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities in order to ensure their inclusion and equal opportunities with others; and community development projects that include physical rehabilitation, educational inclusion, economic inclusion, vocational rehabilitation, community awareness, and inclusive development.



Executive Summary

As in every election since 2005, the "My Right" Campaign in the 2022 parliamentary elections re-emphasized activating the role of persons with disabilities in political life, facilitating their participation in the elections, and removing them from the state of marginalization that controls their participation in political life, caused by architectural obstacles, absence of alternative means to participate in elections, inherited and preconceived ideas, and an inferior view of their abilities. The LUPD, believing that participation in the parliamentary elections is a right of all citizens, that participation is a duty of citizens so that their representatives can reach the legislative institution, and so that they can be able to claim their rights, launched the "My Right" Campaign in 2005 to activate the role of persons with disabilities in political life as a pressure force and to highlight their issues through elections.

Ahead of the 2022 parliamentary elections, the Campaign limited its demands to three: use of ground floor rooms in polling centers as polling stations, use of elevators where available, and creation of polling stations in polling center courtyards where the first two requirements are not available. During the period leading up to the elections (November 2021 - May 2022), the Campaign intensified its demands towards the relevant ministries (Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and Ministry of Social Affairs). This was accompanied by an awareness campaign that communicated its demands to stakeholders and individuals with disabilities, through civil coalitions and alliances, international organizations concerned with electoral reform, disability organizations and civil society organizations.



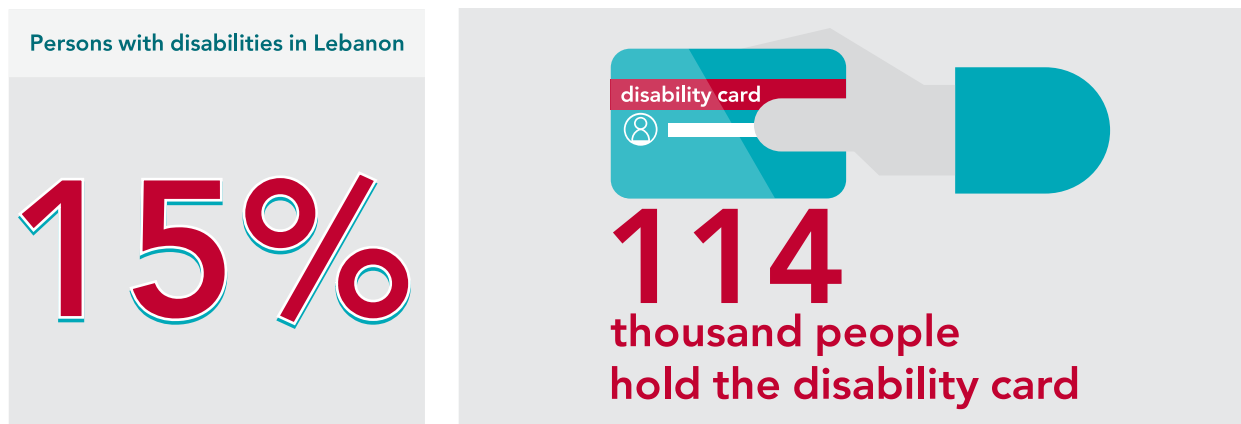
Teams of observers of the "My Right" campaign toured the polling centers (all are schools) that were provided to the Ministry, to monitor the proper progress of the electoral process of voters with disabilities. In general, despite the violations, most of which can be overcome by training poll station head officers and clerks, security forces, candidate representatives and parliamentary blocs, a positive breakthrough has been achieved. The campaign has established the inclusive polling center model by adopting the ground floor and introducing polling stations in courtyards.

This report includes the results of the work of the monitoring teams which were provided with the form divided into three sections.

- ✓ **Section One:** Preparedness of polling centers for voters with disabilities
- ✓ **Section Two:** Monitoring violations against voters with disabilities
- ✓ **Section Three:** Violations against voters with disabilities
- ✓ **Section Four:** Interviews with voters with disabilities on election day

Background

The percentage of persons with disabilities ranges between 10 and 15 percent of the population of Lebanon², i.e. more than four hundred thousand citizens, of whom about 114 thousand people hold the disability card stipulated in Law No. 220/2000 on the rights of persons with disabilities in Lebanon. Persons with disabilities in Lebanon face difficulties in accessing their rights in general³, and although the laws in force guarantee these rights, a large number of obstacles have prevented persons with physical, visual, hearing or mental disabilities from enjoying them during the past thirty years, that is, since the return of elections to Lebanon after the end of the civil war (1975-1990).



The LUPD (formerly the Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union – LPHU) has been striving since 1981 to establish the human rights-social model in dealing with persons with disabilities. It is a rights-based model, considering that a person with a disability is a human being who enjoys all the rights included in the Bill of Human Rights and international conventions. The latest of which is the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities issued in 2006, which did not reach the Lebanese Parliament until 16 years after its issuance, and today it is pending modern applicable legislation. This model also considers that disability

² Since 2015, the World Bank has adopted in its reports the rate of 15 percent of persons with disabilities in Lebanon based on the broader definition of disability, while civil organizations were adopting the 10 percent adopted by the United Nations at the end of the last millennium.

³ See: The Universal Periodic Review on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Lebanon, Reports for the Years: 2010, 2013, 2015, 2018, 2020.

does not lie in people themselves, but rather in the barriers at the levels of places, services and information. If these obstacles are removed, disability will no longer exist.

Based on this vision, the Union sought to fight the exclusion of persons with disabilities from their communities, and called for economic, social and educational inclusion, leading to a society that respects all its members, invests in their capabilities, and opens up equal opportunities for them.

Article 29 of the 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities puts emphasis on guaranteeing the political rights of persons with disabilities, and states that it is the responsibility of the State to grant “persons with disabilities their political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others. These rights include the right to freedom of expression and vote, as well as the right to be elected and to represent other citizens”.

Article 7 of the Lebanese Constitution promulgated on May 23, 1926, with all its amendments, states that all Lebanese shall be equal before the law. They shall equally enjoy civil and political rights and shall equally be bound by public obligations and duties without any distinction.

Political Rights

As to political rights, i.e. candidacy and voting, after removing legal obstacles, persons with disabilities faced the mentalities of successive authorities that did not implement legislation, and did not prioritize the issues of access for persons with disabilities, architectural installations, and overcoming obstacles to their access to places similarly to non-disabled citizens. Also, the budgets required for voters with disabilities to vote with dignity and independence were not allocated. During the past three decades, officials used to spend their terms in office either ignoring the rights of persons with disabilities or deliberately excluding them. The situation is getting worse year after year, and with each election, we see persons with disabilities being humiliated, by carrying them on the stairs, robbing them of their votes, voting on their behalf...



Facing this recurring reality and in order to prevent its reoccurrence, the LUPD, through the “My Right Campaign – The National Campaign for Recognizing the Political Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Lebanon”, called for the right of citizens with physical, visual, hearing and mental disabilities to participate in the electoral process with independence and dignity. This way, they will be able to elect their representatives independently and freely. In addition, if the legislation is implemented, obstacles can be overcome for other groups, including the elderly, the chronically ill, the temporarily disabled, pregnant women, parents who transport their children in strollers, and others... that is, a large proportion of Lebanese society.



Why the “My Right” Campaign?

On the legal level, the awareness of persons with disabilities of their rights since 1981 has resulted in their demand for just legislation that protects civil and political rights. After the end of the civil war (1975-1990) and with Lebanon moving towards general elections, the Union started to demand these rights, and then launched the “My Right” Campaign before the 2005 elections, and the campaign continues to this day. Officials used to promise persons with disabilities before each election that they will respect their rights, but these were just empty promises, claiming that they were short of time. The 2022 elections were held after a great deal of doubt about the possibility of holding them, and in difficult economic and living conditions that Lebanon is going through.

“My Right” Campaign was launched in 2005 to prompt the implementation of Article 98 of Law No. 220/2000 in order to preserve the right of candidacy and voting for persons with disabilities. It was able to include a legal article in the draft of President Fouad Boutros' committee for the draft election law (2006). Then Lebanese legislators confirmed the content of this article in Law No. 25/2008 and the current Elections Law No. 47/2017. It was also able, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, to work on issuing implementing decree No. 2214/2009 to facilitate the process of voting for persons with disabilities.

Monitoring and observation

The Union monitored the polling centers and surveyed their readiness for an inclusive voting process for persons with disabilities. A comprehensive field survey of polling centers in Lebanon between 2008 and 2009 was carried out, as well as an audit in Beirut in 2015. A study of the cost of equipping all schools in Lebanon, both public and private, showed that

0.8 percent of the budget of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for six years is sufficient to equip all schools in Lebanon

, in addition to detailed architectural studies and maps of the schools, which were all submitted to the relevant ministries. However, successive governments from 2005 to date did not take into consideration any of them.

Since the launch of the Campaign in 2005 until today, the Union has not hesitated to demand the political rights of persons with disabilities, whether through meetings with successive interior ministers, competent parliamentary committees, municipalities and unions of municipalities, or communicating with governors and Qaimaqams. In parallel, the Union worked on sensitizing organizations and associations concerned with electoral reform to include its demands in their agendas, as well as educating persons with disabilities, their families, and local communities.

The Campaign launched observation operations in every parliamentary or municipal elections during the past seventeen years. After each election, it issued its detailed reports on violations of the rights of voters with disabilities. It received promises from direct stakeholders that the upcoming elections would be inclusive, and between 2005 and 2019, they were unfortunately empty promises.

Introduction

In the context of “My Right” Campaign, the Union adopted a strategy of alliance with electoral reform organizations and associations to mobilize support and advocacy, implement legislation, and unify all reform demands. Thus, the Union adopted the demands of these organizations, and vice versa.

Within the framework of this strategy, specific methods of action were adopted: the Union reduced its demands to a minimum, and worked progressively to establish the gains achieved. The Union adopted a policy of cooperation with the ministries and administrations concerned with the electoral process (the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Social Affairs, governorates, Qaimaqamiyat, and municipalities) to ask them to carry out their duties stipulated in the legislation.

Since an essential part of the campaign’s work is based on observation on Election Day, the Union adopted a scientific methodology by updating and digitizing the form, expanding the framework for training observers, defining the sample, and cooperating with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to overcome obstacles.

Through this strategy and according to the methodologies adopted, the Union aimed to achieve a positive breakthrough in implementing the rights of voters with disabilities to be enshrined and built upon in the upcoming elections.

First: On legislation

The claim for political rights of persons with disabilities is based on a number of legislations regulating the electoral process:

- **Law No. 25 – Parliamentary Elections (2008), Section Seven: On the Voting Process**

Article 91: No voter may delegate their right to vote to another party. However,

a handicapped voter who cannot practice their right to vote shall be allowed, under the supervision of the polling station panel, to have the assistance of another voter of their choice.

Such an event shall be mentioned in the box reserved for comments on the checklist.

Article 92: The Ministry shall take into consideration the needs of disabled persons while organizing the electoral process and take all measures allowing those to exercise their right to vote without obstacles. The Ministry shall put in place a relevant exhaustive implementation code after consulting with Disabled Persons organizations and Service Providing organizations set forth in the Law on the Rights of Disabled Persons No. 220 dated 29/5/2000.

The importance of these two articles lies in the issuance of Decree No. 2214, regarding procedures and measures related to facilitating the participation of persons with special needs in the parliamentary and municipal elections, issued on June 10, 2009. The Decree was adopted at the suggestion of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities, and after surveying the opinion of Disabled Persons organizations and Service Providing organizations provided for in Law No. 220/2000. It was also adopted based on the aforementioned Law, Article 98 thereof, and Law No. 25/2008 and its amendments, especially Articles 91 and 92 thereof, as well as after consulting with the State Consultative Council and the approval of the Council of Ministers on May 13, 2009. This decree, and the additions related to all types of disabilities, are the focus of this plan.

- **Law No. 44 – Parliamentary Elections (2017). Article 96: On the voters with special needs**

In accordance with the provisions of the law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, voters with special needs or suffering from disability preventing them from marking their choice and placing the ballot paper inside the envelope and casting it in the ballot box may be assisted by another voter of their choice, under the supervision of the polling station officers. Such occurrence shall be noted in the “comments” column on the checklist. The Ministry shall take into account the needs of persons with disabilities when organizing elections and facilitate the procedures allowing them to exercise their right to vote unobstructed. The Ministry shall establish the implementation regulations of the present Article upon consultation with the specialized associations for persons with disabilities⁴.

⁴ The Observatory for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Lebanon has reservations on Article 96 of Law No. 44/2017. On the level of concepts: A person with a disability in the elections is still viewed as being a voter, as Lebanese legislators did not go beyond the fact that a citizen with disabilities can be a candidate, a candidate agent, an observer, a polling station head officer, or a clerk. As for terms offensive to persons with disabilities, there are the inclusion of the adjective disabled without person(s) before it, and the term “persons with special needs” which is a broad category that crosses the threshold of disability, as well as the worst expression “a person with a disability that renders them incapable”. On the technical level, the implementing decree No. 2214/2009 on procedures and measures related to facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities in the parliamentary and municipal elections, which was supposed to be implemented during the past eight years, was ignored.

Second: On demands

- The Campaign gradually set the ceiling of its demands for the 2022 elections. It had initially called for an amendment to some clauses related to the Election Supervisory Commission in Election Law No. 44/2017, with the aim of further activating its role to be more efficient in the 2022 elections. Also, adopting the “megacenter” stipulated in Law No. 44/2017, which was at the top of the reform demands in 2018, and implementing the full content of Decree No. 2214/2009.
- Facing this impasse, with the continued evasion of equipping the built environment despite the issuance of Implementing Decree No. 7194 in 2011⁵, the Union set its course and campaign titled “I want to vote from the ground floor” as minimum demands at this stage and in these circumstances. It based its demands on the law as the protector and guarantor of rights, and on Decree No. 2214/2009, which clearly and explicitly states in article II that in case it was not possible to provide the inclusive architectural specifications in the polling centers stipulated in article I, the ground floors of all polling centers shall be adopted.
- The demands were limited to three: use of ground floor rooms in polling centers as polling stations, use of elevators where available, and creation of polling stations in polling center courtyards where the first two requirements are not available.
- During the period leading up to the elections (November 2021 - May 2022), the Campaign intensified its demands towards the relevant ministries (Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and Ministry of Social Affairs). This was accompanied by an awareness campaign that communicated its demands to stakeholders and individuals with disabilities, through civil coalitions and alliances, international organizations concerned with electoral reform, disability organizations and civil society organizations.

⁵ Decree No. 7194, issued on December 16, 2011, related to Section Four of Law No. 220/2000 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Building Code No. 646. It aims to implement the conditions of Article 34 of Law No. 220 issued on May 29, 2000 related to the inclusive architectural environment, and Article 13 - First of Law No. 646 of 11/12/2004 (the Building Code), which guarantees the ease and independence of persons with disabilities in accessing public or private built places independently.

“I want to vote from the ground floor” Slogan

The Union organized a protest sit-in in front of the Grand Serail in Beirut, on March 30, 2022, after the protesters marched from Martyrs' Square, and launched the campaign slogan “I want to vote from the ground floor”. The Union wanted to emphasize its demands to use ground floor rooms in polling centers as polling stations, to ensure using elevators where available, and to create polling stations in polling center courtyards where there are no rooms on the ground floor.



On the cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities

- With the beginning of parliamentary election preparations, the Campaign's demands received a response from the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities for the first time.
- The Campaign provided the Ministry with a list of polling centers whose ground floors contain rooms that can serve as polling stations, as well as those that have elevators that can be used on Election Day, according to the Ministry of Education's list.
- The participation of the Union in the elections conference, on February 15, 2022, which was organized by the Ministry and included a number of local and international actors concerned with electoral affairs, the Union's affirmation of the Campaign's demands and the Minister of Interior's adoption of these demands.
- The Campaign provided the Ministry with the list of centers that can be transferred to other centers to facilitate the voting process.
- The Minister of Interior, Judge Bassam al-Mawlawi, pledged on March 15, 2022, after meeting with governors and Qaimaqams, to hold

elections on the ground floors, in order to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in the voting process.

- On April 22, 2022, the Ministry of Interior issued Circular No. 12/AM/2022, related to facilitating and securing the needs of persons with disabilities when organizing electoral processes, and a copy thereof was notified to the Union. This was followed by another circular, dated April 26, bearing the same number, also related to facilitating and securing the needs of persons with disabilities when organizing electoral processes. A copy thereof was notified to the Union. It was attached to Decision No. 391 dated April 28, 2022.

On the cooperation with the Ministries of Education and Social Affairs

- Within the framework of the commitment to hold elections on ground floors as announced by the Minister of Interior, attempts were made to coordinate between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministries of Education and Social Affairs, to obtain from the first the names and addresses of equipped schools, and from the second a list of the names of registered persons with disabilities.
- However, the results were not as expected, as the Ministry of Affairs did not disclose the lists of registered persons with disabilities under the pretext of privacy of personal information of individuals. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education presented an incomplete list of equipped public schools, which it was supposed to possess and prepare previously throughout the years.
- The Union obtained a list of 814 schools out of 1226, which is the total of public schools in all of Lebanon, and this list was submitted by the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Interior. The list includes an assessment of the buildings in terms of their accessibility in order to facilitate the movement of students with disabilities based on the following criteria: availability of an elevator, an equipped toilet, and availability of slopes in playgrounds. The assessment also included the number of usable rooms and their number on the ground floor, and the places where solar panels are available to generate electric power. The list was the main information base on which the Union's work was built to develop a plan

to monitor the level of architectural obstacles, as part of a basket of procedural, behavioral and spatial violations.

On the media

As soon as he signed the Code, Makari promptly instructed to add translation of the evening news bulletin on Lebanon TV in sign language for deaf people. This

On May 10, 2022, the Lebanese Minister of Information, Ziad Makari, signed a Code of Conduct prepared by the LUPD after consulting with organizations of persons with disabilities. Thus, the official Lebanese media (Lebanon TV, Radio Lebanon, National News Agency, Ministry of Information publications) entered the world of respect for diversity.

Code of Conduct is the first in the framework of respecting the rights of persons with disabilities in Lebanon in the media. It seeks to transcend the

stereotypical view of the capabilities and needs of persons with disabilities, to stop using the terminology of disability as insults that detract from their dignity, to strive for their optimal treatment, and to involve them in everything that concerns them.

In parallel, social media platforms of the LUPD (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) were active. The Union produced a number of videos that accompanied the preparatory phase of the election observation process, summarized the demands, and accompanied the demand activity on the ground, as well as trainings and the launch of observation operations. Social media platforms also accompanied the long Election Day with live broadcast and continuous updating of information and violations against voters with disabilities.

It is worth noting that social media platforms had an important role for voters with disabilities wishing to participate in the electoral process in depositing their personal data with the Union, in order to facilitate this process through the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities⁶.

⁶ See: Section Three of the Report/Interviews.

On the cooperation and alliance with local and international civil society organizations

- **Electoral Reform Alliance:**

It included, in addition to the LUPD, the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections, the Lebanese Transparency Association – No Corruption, and Maharat Foundation. The Union shared with its members the reform aims and goals that it launched, so it adopted the demands of the members and the members adopted the demands of the Union.

- **Lebanon Disability Rights Consortium:**

As part of the continuous cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities since the launch of the “My Right” Campaign in 2005, the Union presents to organizations that believe in inclusion the latest data related to rights and consults with them in periodic meetings on all matters concerning persons with disabilities to unify the demands and to reach the best results.

- **Electoral Working Group:**

A large group of local and international actors concerned with electoral affairs, whose meetings were held monthly to organize and manage the electoral assistance project of the United Nations Development Program in Lebanon (UNDP-LEAP), in which the Union affirmed its demands and the possibility of achieving them.

- **Lebanon Civic Action Accelerator Program – LEB-CAAP:**

The observation preparatory phase witnessed a collaboration between the Union and the USAID-funded Lebanon Civic Action Accelerator Program (LEB-CAAP), which resulted in a central training for about 200 observers. In this context, cooperation was undertaken with the B.O.T platform with the support of the program to develop the observation form digitally, enabling observers on Election Day to immediately include the results of their observations on a unified system, in addition to extracting the results in an accurate manner.

- In a context related to the preparatory phase of election observation, the Union's cooperation with **Diakonia** and the **National Democratic Institute** continued, which resulted in a number of activities and facilitated the possibility of organizing regional trainings for volunteers (Beirut, Mount Lebanon, South, Bekaa, and North).



Third: On the 2022 work methodology

Polling centers are distributed in all Lebanese cities, towns and villages (1,734 polling centers according to the polling center list of the Ministry of Interior for the 2022 elections), in buildings of various use, from public and private schools to municipalities, churches, Husseiniyas, and other public buildings. Public schools constitute 55% (955 public schools) of the total approved polling centers, distributed throughout the Lebanese territory. School buildings are different from other buildings of various use and are distinguished by their spacious interior spaces, which can accommodate a large number of people at the same time over an entire day. Playgrounds are spacious places that can accommodate a large number of voters, including persons with disabilities, and the interior spaces of corridors and halls are suitable for their movement, and they also include a relatively acceptable number of toilets. Consequently, public school buildings are the most spacious places for the electoral process, in addition to their distribution over the majority of villages, towns and cities, where their number exceeds 1,220 schools over the entire Lebanese territory, and their percentage as polling centers exceeds more than half.

The adoption of public schools as polling centers, while they must be equipped to receive everyone, is the first and essential step towards educational inclusion. Accessibility required in polling centers (in parking lots, playgrounds, entrances, corridors, halls, toilets and elevators) is a response to the effects of section IV “Inclusive Built Environment” of Law No. 220/2000, which leads to the enshrinement of the right to education for all, as part of the basket of basic and necessary rights for all citizens. It should be noted that the number of public school students exceeds 30% of the total number of students in Lebanon. Consequently, striving to uphold the right to vote and freedom to work and to form political options by voting and other legal and constitutional means is complementary to the adoption of and commitment to a package of other basic rights. Thus, in short, every intervention or installation has to be in this direction, and it has to be sustainable and not temporary. The issue is not about a wooden slope to be used in just one day, but throughout the entire school year; it comes within the context of accessibility, albeit in stages.

Sample selection

- The polling center sample was chosen exclusively from the approved public schools, which are on the list of the Ministry of Education and specifically referred to in the form as “equipped”. This is to determine the level of readiness of polling centers for all voters as a first step in the short term, and secondly to enhance the readiness of public schools and make them accessible to all students, within the policy of educational inclusion at the subsequent level. It should be noted that educational inclusion necessarily passes through, but is not limited to, equipping and adapting school buildings, to include adapting curricula and exams, training teachers, and educating students. It is also worth noting that the use of schools as polling centers requires their use for a maximum of one day, while the primary purpose of their use as schools that adhere to the curriculum of the Ministry of Education as per the academic calendar is for a period of 170⁷ days per year.
- Time constraint imposed the adoption of a sample that is technically and architecturally justified with official legitimacy, in which the inclusion criteria are relatively adopted. While it was impossible to conduct an architectural assessment survey of public schools before the elections (approved centers were announced sixteen days earlier), the materials of the Ministry of Education were relied upon as an official authority concerned with the entire educational process. However, there was a lack of clarity on the architectural standards adopted in the assessment contained in its data included in the official list and determining the levels of inclusion.
- Decision of the Ministry of Interior No. 391 dated April 28, 2022 specified polling stations and centers in all electoral districts, less than three weeks before the elections were held. There are 1,734 polling centers, in the fifteen districts throughout the Lebanese territory, an increase of nearly 1 percent over the number of polling centers in 2010, on the date of the comprehensive survey conducted by the Union on all polling centers in Lebanon.

⁷ The number of days specified in the education decree is 170 teaching days, while the actual number is about 140 days.

”
The percentage of approved public schools reached more than 55% of the total centers, as the number of public schools approved as polling centers reached 955 out of 1,734 polling centers
“

- with varying proportions between regions. This has a social significance among regions, as the percentage of approved public schools out of the total rest of the centers is distributed as follows in the Lebanese governorates: 69 percent in the Bekaa, 68 percent in the South, declining in the North to nearly 58 percent, and 55 percent in Beirut, which corresponds to the general average. While in Mount Lebanon, it was 33 percent, the lowest percentage, noting that the percentage in Akkar was equal to the percentages of the South and the Bekaa.
- The list of the Ministry of Education includes approximately 1,226 public schools, which are the total public schools in Lebanon, of which about 78 percent have been approved as polling centers, i.e. 955 schools.
- The Ministry of Interior requested from the Ministry of Education a list of all public schools, provided that it includes the level of equipment and installations in those buildings, in terms of facilities and architectural installations suitable for the movement of students with disabilities. The Ministry of Education submitted a form to the Ministry of Interior for 814 schools out of 1,226 registered public schools. This is the number of schools that responded to the form, meaning that only 66 percent of school principals filled out the form by answering “yes” or “no”, regarding the presence of an elevator or an equipped toilet, the availability of slopes and solar panels, as well as answering the availability of teaching rooms on the ground floor, other than administrative rooms, libraries or laboratories. This last question specifically indicates the seriousness of the form, because it is consistent with the Ministry of Interior’s orientations about the possibility of using halls on the ground floor as polling stations. It should also be noted

⁸ In May 2022, figures were received about the presence of 1256 public schools in Lebanon, from Information International in February 2019, but the number used in our report is the one that was mentioned in the last list submitted by the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Interior. Figures were also provided by the Center for Educational Research and Development for the years 2019-2022 on the number of public schools in Lebanon, which amounted to 1,235 public schools.

that the answers contained in the form are not based on any indication of declared technical and architectural measurements or standards. Therefore, dealing with these results is neutral in terms of accepting the description provided as it is, especially since these data are from an official body.

- The research was based on that list, which included 814 schools, i.e. 47 percent of the total public schools that responded to the form of their relevant ministry, which we will call Education 814 list of the total polling centers, to find out the assumed sample. The sample narrowed further after examining the number of public schools approved as polling centers by the Ministry of Interior within that list, reaching 486 schools, or 51 percent of the total approved public schools. Thus, out of the total number of public schools approved in the elections, i.e. out of 955, data were available for 486 schools that had their readiness assessed in the Education 814 list, and these are the public schools that responded to the evaluation of the Ministry of Education and were approved as polling centers at the same time.
- The results of the Education form showed the following: The number of schools with an elevator was 106, and with an equipped toilet was 145. In addition, the number of schools with more than four vacant halls (other than administrative offices, laboratories and the library) on the ground floor, allowing them to be used as polling stations, was 233.
- By comparing these results with the list of schools approved as polling centers, i.e. 486 schools, it was found that only 150 schools have halls on their ground floors to which polling stations can be moved. It should be noted that there is an elevator and an equipped toilet in a number of these schools, but the lack of electric power to operate elevators makes it necessary to use the ground floor in the selected schools.
- The result is now as follows: 150 public schools that the results of the education form indicated a specific level of readiness to receive voters with disabilities. Accordingly, the final result will be as follows: 150 public schools approved as polling centers and fulfilling some accessibility requirements, i.e. 30 percent of the 486 public schools included in the Education 814 list. The percentage of this group out of the total approved public schools, i.e. 955 schools, is about 16 percent.
- In the selected sample, we sought to maintain close proportions in geographical distribution, with proportions reaching 82 percent of the number of approved and relatively equipped public schools, as well as

approximately 13 percent of the total approved public schools. They were distributed as follows in the governorates and electoral districts:

Governorate and number of electoral districts	Number of public schools in the sample	Percentage of the sample out of the approved and relatively equipped public schools	Percentage of the sample out of the total public schools approved as polling centers
South + Nabatieh (3 electoral districts)	26	81 %	10.4 %
Mount Lebanon (4 electoral districts)	29	90 %	16.6 %
Bekaa + Baalbek-Hermel (3 electoral districts)	29	80 %	13.5 %
North + Akkar (3 electoral districts)	33	77 %	12 %
Beirut (2 electoral districts)	6	86 %	16.5 %
Total 15 districts	123	87.23 %	12.8 %

Additional measures ahead of the parliamentary elections

Within the framework of coordination between the Ministry of the Interior, the LUPD, and the “My Right” campaign to assess the conditions of the approved polling centers and how to achieve the best possible participation of persons with disabilities in these difficult circumstances, limited capacities, and short period of time, the Ministry sought to obtain information about persons with disabilities and their registers. The Ministry considered the possibility of moving their polling stations to the ground floors of the polling centers, and installing slopes on the ground floors of the polling centers with different primary functions, and trying to move the polling center that does not facilitate movement to another nearby building where voting is available on the ground floor. The Union focused its efforts on providing expertise and technical support to reach the widest possible participation of persons with disabilities in the elections, by approving the use of ground floors in public schools, as well as proposing the transfer of some centers from buildings of various use to public schools, based on the aforementioned Ministry of Education data.

Accordingly, the Union submitted two lists of public schools to the Ministry of Interior proposed to be adopted, on Monday morning, April 25, three days before the announcement of Decision No. 391 of April 28, 2022, related to the amendment of Decision No. 352 of 14/4/2022 (dividing and specifying polling stations in all electoral districts for the 2022 parliamentary elections).

- **First list⁹:** includes 143 public schools approved as polling centers in the previous elections, which were later matched with the lists when Decision No. 391 was issued specifying polling centers. It required that the polling stations be lowered from the upper floors to the ground floor in the same approved polling center, based on the data of the Ministry of Education, where there are vacant halls on the ground floor.
- **Second list¹⁰:** includes 30 public schools equipped according to the evaluation of the Ministry of Education (availability of an elevator and/or an equipped toilet, and/or vacant halls on the ground floor). They are not included in the circular of the Ministry of Interior, which specified the polling centers, but they are located in a close geographical vicinity and within the same administrative area, and within the same register of an approved unequipped polling center.

The problem with this list is the difficulty of transferring centers as a result of the political and sectarian interference and complications existing in the regions, as well as the inaccuracy of naming schools mentioned in the Ministry of Education's list. As sometimes, the name "public school" is mentioned in the list only in a certain register, while in the same register there are more than one public school.

⁹ The first list is attached at the end of the report.

¹⁰ The second list is attached at the end of the report.

Fourth: On the form, training and observation



Form

The Campaign developed a form for the observers that was used in previous electoral processes, and on the basis of the analysis of its data this report is based, and divided it into three sections (as a result of cooperation with BOT, the form was digitized in its three sections):

- **Section One:** Preparedness of polling centers for voters with disabilities.
- **Section Two:** Violations against voters with disabilities.
- **Section Three:** Interviews with voters with disabilities on election day.



Training

As part of the preparations for launching the process of monitoring violations in the “My Right” Campaign 2022:

The Union organized three workshops for Campaign observers and volunteers, in Beirut and Mount Lebanon on April 25 (31 trainees), in the Middle and North Bekaa on April 30 (52 trainees), and in the South and North on May 4, 2022 (80 trainees). The three preparatory workshops included a unified training programme. In the awareness part, the participants learned about the history of the struggle towards establishing the political rights of persons with disabilities, the different disabilities and how to deal with persons with disabilities, models, terminology, and the idea of inclusion and social diversity. They also learned about the history of the “My Right” Campaign and its general objectives and those for 2022. The training part of the workshops introduced the participants to the laws in force that ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy political rights (candidacy and voting), and the legal articles in local and international legislation that guarantee the independence and dignity of voters with disabilities. It also addressed the definition of social monitoring and the eighteen principles that the observer must adhere to, in addition to practical applications in monitoring, and the analysis of the observed material in connection with legal articles. The trainees were divided

into groups to produce assessment tools to monitor violations of the rights of voters with disabilities.

The preparatory phase culminated in a comprehensive training of about 200 trainees in Beirut on May 8, and the Union launched the process of monitoring violations against voters with disabilities.

The training of the various groups of volunteers was a distinct inclusion experience on more than one level, from the diversity of skills, knowledge, and abilities among observation team members, to adapting the form to be accessible to everyone, to the experience of putting a smart programming application at the service of a human rights cause.



Observation

On the morning of May 15, each of the observer groups moved towards the 123 fixed and mobile centers, and detected a large number of procedural, behavioral, and spatial difficulties, obstacles, and violations, which were written down in the forms, and the result was the following four sections of the report.

Fifth: On research ethics

The human rights-based approach was adopted in a pivotal and fundamental way in all stages of preparing this report through the adoption of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies in an intersectional manner. This approach emphasizes political rights and the right to participation, specifically on Election Day, with an emphasis on the right to access for persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities are considered citizens who enjoy their full rights on an equal basis with non-disabled people.

All observers were trained to communicate with respondents in an accurate and ethical manner. This training taught them how to be patient, how to listen to others, and how to facilitate a constructive and open dialogue. The observers

were also trained to be alert to issues arising from and related to elections and disabilities, especially with regard to young men and women with disabilities.

The training also covered other key issues such as strict confidentiality of respondents. All respondents were informed of the purpose of the form/questionnaire, and each individual was asked to give his or her oral or written consent. Respondents were informed that they could refuse to answer any question and/or withdraw at any time. However, they were encouraged to participate as their anonymity was ensured by digitizing the form to protect the identity of each respondent.

Sixth: On the objectives of the report

This report presents a way to implement the slogan “I want to vote from the ground floor”, which is the cry of persons with disabilities to be heard through the ballot boxes. The “My Right” Campaign raised the slogan “I want to vote from the ground floor” for several reasons, including the lack of accessibility, the energy crisis, and the lack of time. The slogan was limited only to the demand for elections to be held on ground floors. The power outage disrupts the free, independent and dignified access of persons with disabilities to polling stations on the upper floors. This causes flagrant violations of their dignity by candidate campaign members, bringing them from their homes and carrying them on the stairs and consequently affecting the independence of their votes, and putting pressure on their freedom and their own political positions.

By analyzing outputs, the report aims to show the extent of commitment to the decision to transfer polling stations to ground floors. It also aims to show the level of accuracy and credibility of the data of the Ministry of Education, with the inability to conform to inclusive architectural standards, where the defining criterion is now the ability to access and use independently and with dignity. In addition, the report aims to show the extent of the existing architectural obstacles and the extent of violations against voters with disabilities caused by the absence of architectural installations, and the rampant neglect in those buildings. It also aims to show the interventions and installations in schools that the Ministry of Interior implemented hastily, and to draw conclusions leading to practical

recommendations and suggestions to be adopted during preparations for the upcoming municipal elections in 2023.

Seventh: On the challenges and obstacles

As mentioned earlier, preparations were made to monitor the extent to which the 2022 parliamentary elections in Lebanon will integrate voters with disabilities in a very short time due to doubts about the seriousness of holding them on time. The political, economic and security situation was reflected in the mobility, especially before and on the day of the elections.

Moreover, some observers were not familiar with the use of electronic devices to collect information, and it was not possible to collect a lot of data from voters with disabilities in some areas that experienced security problems, so some interviews were conducted with voters with disabilities after election day.

Section One

What is the human rights approach to the concept of disability?

Section One: What is the human rights approach to the concept of disability?

The definition of the concept of disability has evolved over time. With the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the concept of “disability” has become based on human rights principles to enhance the process of enabling persons with disabilities to participate in all aspects of life, whether political, economic, social, and others.

The human rights-based approach, as embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is inspired by “the notion that the inability of persons with disabilities to fully participate in the life of their communities should not be linked solely to the limitation of their limited functional capabilities resulting from their vulnerability”.

This new approach views disability as a result of the barriers set by society. It emphasizes the fact that disability does not stem from the individual, and values the autonomy of persons with disabilities and their ability to participate in daily life, particularly in the civic and political spheres, in a similar way to other citizens.

The human rights-based approach finds its roots in the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”, “entitled to all human rights” and “every human being is entitled to all rights and freedoms, [...] without any discrimination.” As such, it stresses the government’s responsibility to ensure that the human rights of persons with disabilities are guaranteed.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities sets out many of the specific rights that persons with disabilities are entitled to, and has revolutionized the way disability is understood globally.

Article 9 – Accessibility¹¹

1. To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia:

- a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;
- b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures:

- a) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- b) To ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- c) To provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;
- d) To provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;
- e) To provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;
- f) To promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;

¹¹ UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 13 December 2006, A/RES/61/106, Annex I, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4680cd212.html> [accessed 15 September 2022]

g) To promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;

h) To promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.

Article 29 – Participation in political and public life¹²

States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake:

a) To ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, *inter alia*, by:

i. Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;

ii. Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate;

iii. Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;

b) To promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:

i. Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;

¹² UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 13 December 2006, A/RES/61/106, Annex I, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4680cd212.html> [accessed 15 September 2022]

The 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is legally binding on signatory states in establishing the general framework for the rights of persons with disabilities.

”
Lebanon ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through Law No. 291 of April 12, 2022, and adopted international human rights instruments to implement legal prerequisites to uphold the political rights of persons with disabilities.

“

States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities have a responsibility to ensure full participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life either directly or through freely chosen representatives. They shall ensure accessible procedures, facilities, polling centers and polling stations. They shall protect the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot, and ensure freedom of expression for persons with disabilities as voters, among other obligations.

However, incentives to create mechanisms to implement this Convention remain limited, as is the community's understanding of the legally binding nature of the Convention. This is seen as a barrier to creating an enabling environment for persons with disabilities to exercise their political rights.

Section Two

Preparedness of polling centers for
voters with disabilities

Section Two: Prep aredness of polling centers for voters with disabilities

Inspection and observation results: tables and analysis

This table shows the spread of polling centers over the governorates, the fifteen electoral districts, and districts in numbers and their geographical distribution, and how the sample was determined (yellow column) and its percentage from the entire totals.

Lists / governorates, electoral districts and districts (Caza)		Total centers from the Ministry of Interior	Number of approved public schools as polling centers - Ministry of Interior 2022	Public schools list - from the Ministry of Education	Number of public schools that responded to the form - Ministry of Education	Number of schools from the "Official Schools List of the Ministry of Education" and approved in the center lists	Approved and equipped schools	Number of schools that were inspected	Number of schools having an equipped toilet according to the Ministry of Education's survey	Number of schools having an elevator according to the Ministry of Education's survey	Number of schools on the list that have a ground floor / but they are not all approved
South III	Nabatieh	46	121	57	33	31	6	3	5	5	10
	Marjayoun Hasbaya	59		40	29	27	5	3	1	8	9
	Bint Jbeil	43		34	25	23	5	5	2	4	5
South II	Tyre	82	95	72	56	32	7	7	13	13	11
	Zahrani	77		56	37	16	7	7	23	14	13
South I	Saida		32	11	10	3	1	1	0	2	1
	Jezzine	56		8	2	2	1	0	1	0	1
	Jbeil	87	34	21	14	10	3	2	1	0	3
	Keserwan	69		24	12	8	1	1	1	3	5

	Metn	101	22	41	25	13	5	4	2	0	8
	Baabda	71	35	61	46	10	4	4	4	3	18
	Aley	78	83	51	41	27	8	7	5	7	12
	Chouf	109		61	49	33	11	11	8	4	13
Bekaa I	Zahle	67	43	52	41	30	15	11	13	2	18
Bekaa II	West Bekaa	74	58	42	26	34	7	7	8	5	6
	Rashaya			21	17		3	3	4	4	4
Bekaa III	Baalbek Hermel	170	114	109	51	34	11	8	13	3	15
North I	Akkar	177	121	164	97	70	16	13	18	3	27
North II	Tripoli	100	84	101	71	32	7	4	4	7	16
	Minieh - Danniyeh			70	42		7	4	3	2	16
North III	Zgharta	203	77	27	19	12	1	1	3	0	3
	Bcharre			5	4	4	1	0	0	0	1
	Koura			21	16	12	4	4	3	2	4
	Batroun			22	17	12	7	7	3	1	7
Beirut I	Achrafieh	65	7	55	34	3	0	0	1	2	0
	Rmeil										
	Saifi										
	Medawar										
Beirut II	Ras Beirut	65	29	55	34	8	7	6	6	12	7
	Dar El Mreisse										

	Minet El Hosn										
	Zuqaq al-Blat										
	Mazraa										
	Msaytbeh										
	Port										
	Bachoura										
Total		1734	955	1226	814	486	150	123	145	106	233
Percentages		7%	12.80%	10%	15%	25.30%	82%				



Observation teams

On Election Day, observation teams consisted of 83 young women and 75 young men, who were divided into 41 groups.

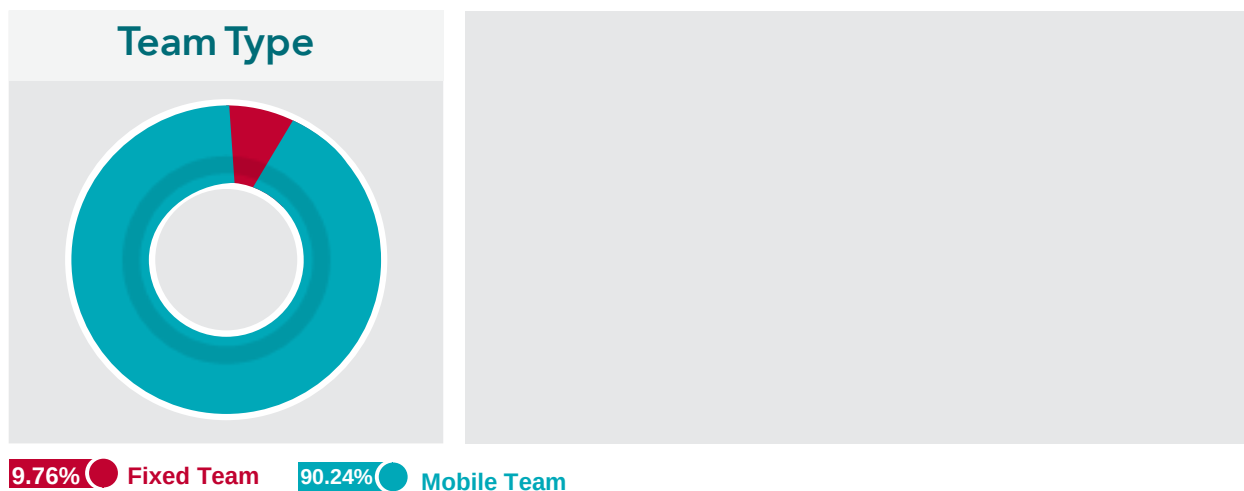
“My Right” Campaign			BOT platform		
Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total
59	57	116	24	18	42



Form outputs

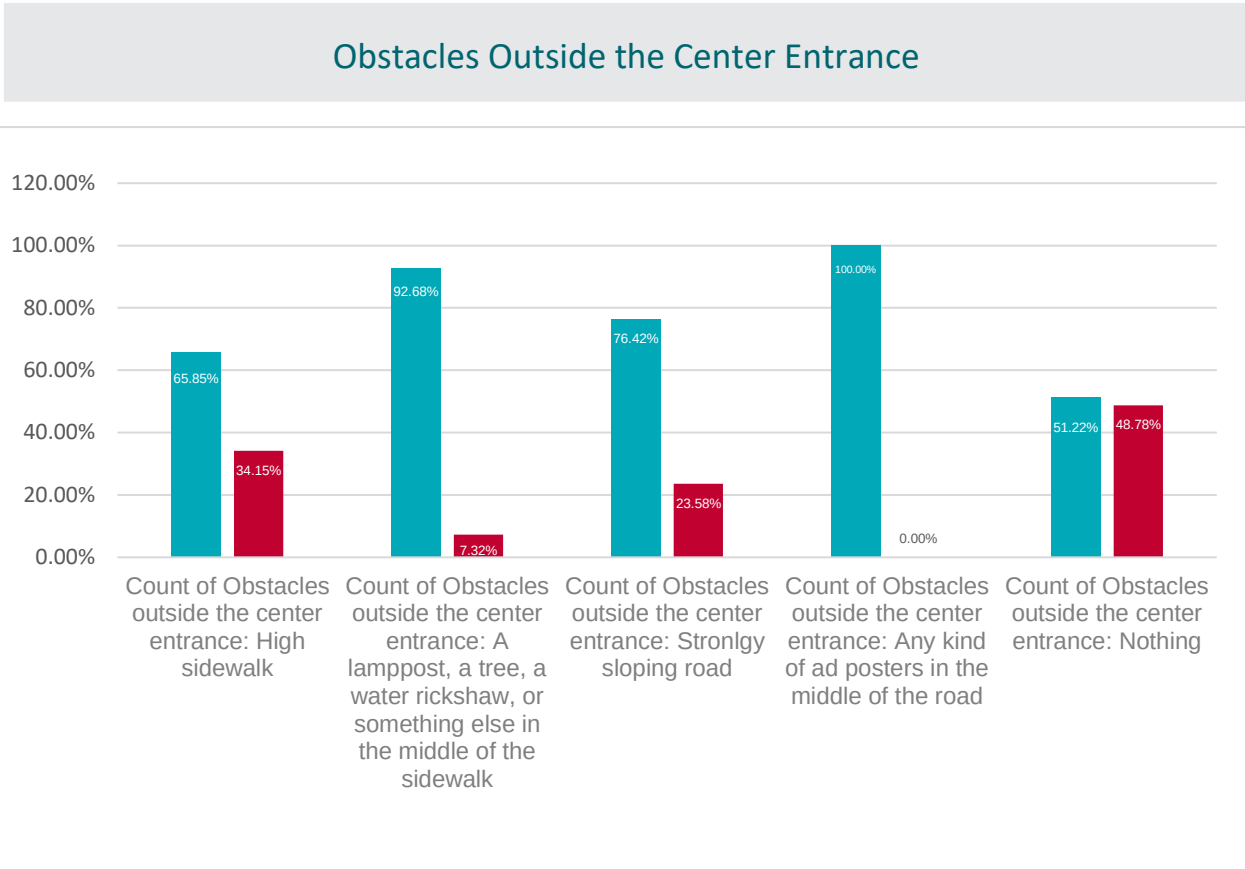
Distribution of the teams among the centers

The teams were distributed among the 123 centers, within two categories, 90 percent of which are mobile for a number of schools, and the rest are fixed in centers.



Obstacles at the entrances to the polling centers

The highest percentage of obstacles outside buildings was approximately 49% for bumps or steep slopes, followed by 34% for high sidewalks, and 23.5% for strongly



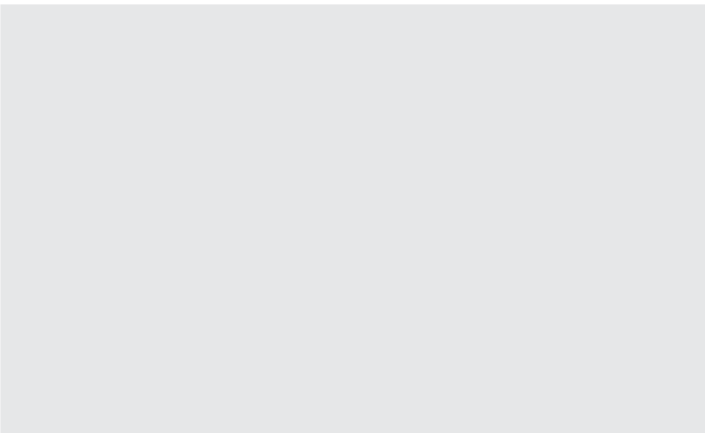
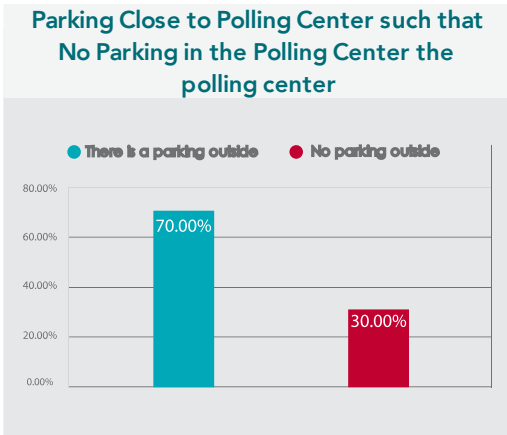
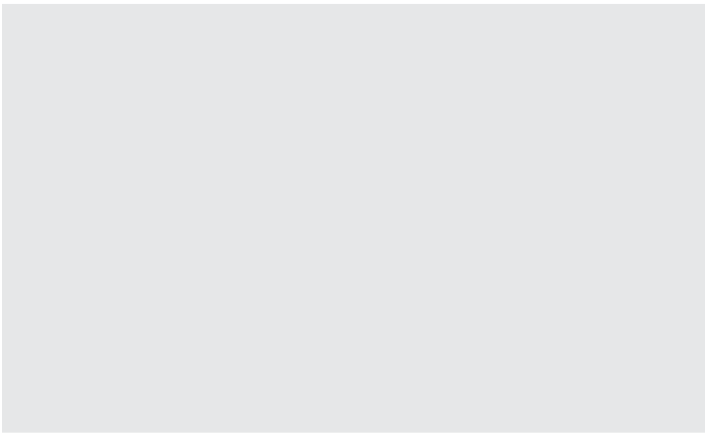
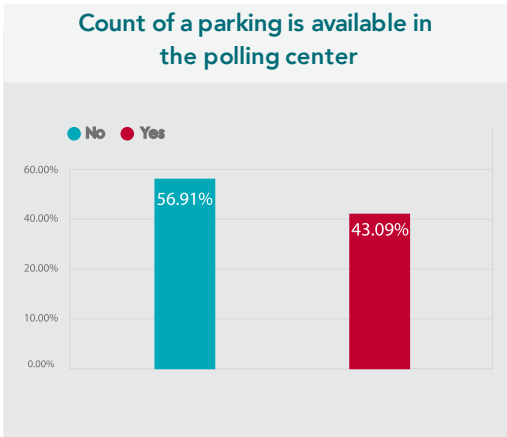
sloping roads, and finally, 7% for the presence of obstacles such as trees, lampposts and water channels in front of the entrances. These obstacles confuse the movement of persons with disabilities and elderly people, expose them to certain risks, and lead them to rely on the assistance of others in their movement.

Pictures of different types of obstacles at the entrances



Parking lots in front of polling stations

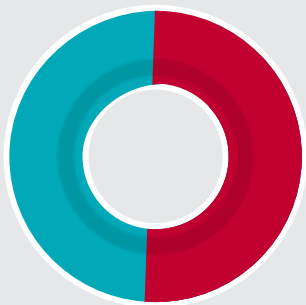
The survey showed the absence of parkings in 57% of the open centers, and their availability in the rest, as well as the lack of parking spaces near the entrances of the centers by 70%, which affects the process of moving from the car to the center in an easy and comfortable way.



Obstacles at the entrances

Observation showed that there are obstacles to the movement of persons with disabilities at the entrances to the centers, at approximately 54% of the centers. As for the rest of the schools (46%), there are no obstacles at their entrances. The high level of obstacles in these centers negatively affects the independence of the movement of voters with disabilities and the elderly.

The Entrance and Passages are Obstacle Free

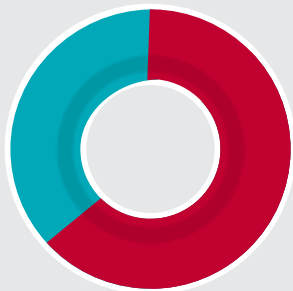


53.66% No 46.34% Yes

Availability of other entrances

Approximately 66% of schools do not have other entrances that can be used, while they are available in 34% of schools, noting that many of those entrances remained closed and were not open to voters with disabilities and the elderly, which required them to use the unequipped entrances and to rely on the help of others.

Presence of Another Locked Entrance

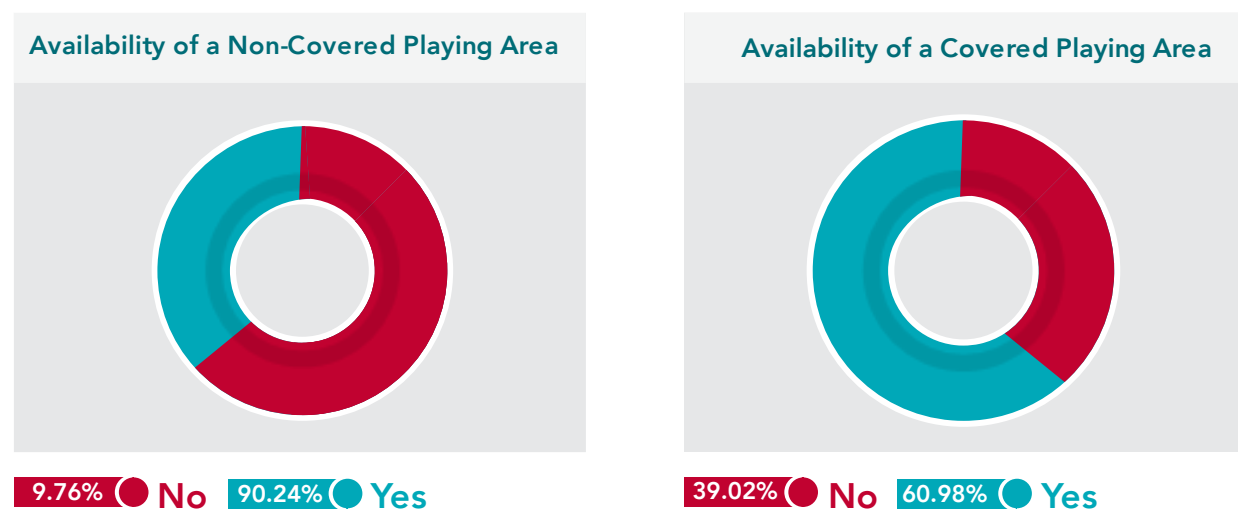


65.85% No 34.15% Yes

Non-covered and covered playing areas

90% of schools have non-covered playing areas, and 61% of schools have covered playing areas. There are schools where non-covered playing areas are available but not covered ones, and vice versa. This means that they can be used to set up tents as polling stations if there are no halls on the ground floors. This high percentage also indicates the availability of spaces that accommodate a large number of voters.

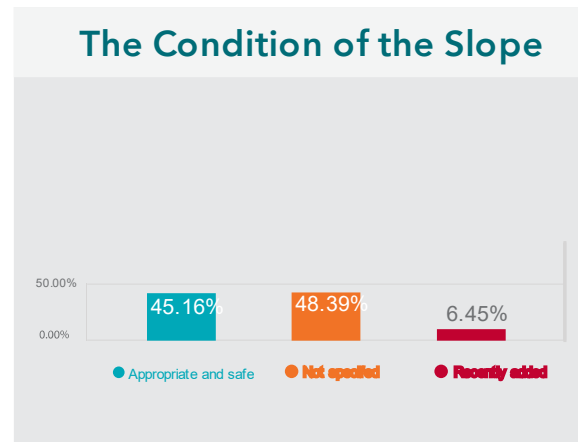
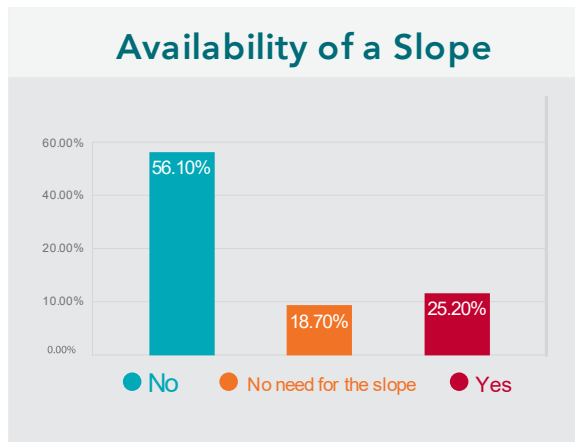
It should be noted that 3%, i.e. only four schools, do not have both covered and non-covered playing areas.



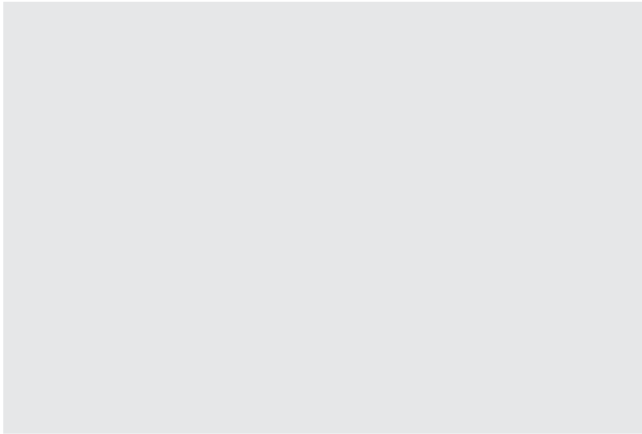
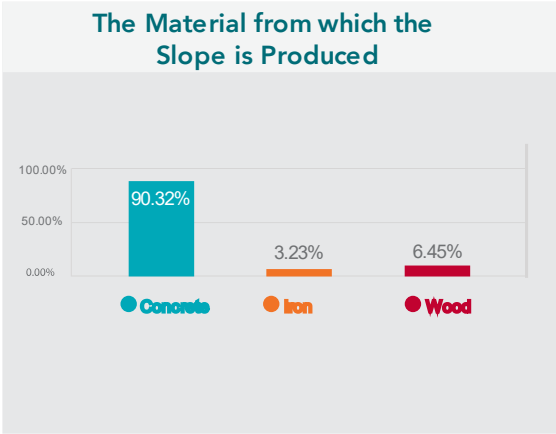
Slopes

The survey showed that 56 percent of schools need slopes to facilitate the movement of persons with disabilities in entrances and playgrounds, but they are not available. There are slopes in about 25 percent of schools, i.e. 31 slopes. It was actually found that only 7 slopes are within the appropriate technical specifications, made of concrete, and outdated. In 19 percent of the schools, the movement of persons with disabilities in playgrounds and entrances does not require slopes. It was found that more than half of the monitored schools need to be equipped with slopes to facilitate movement within these centers. It is also clear that the appropriate and approved technical and architectural standards must be adopted to ensure movement and public safety.

Also, 48 percent of those existing slopes did not have their conditions clearly defined, while 45 percent were found to be safe and easy to use, and it is remarkable that 6.45 percent are newly installed.

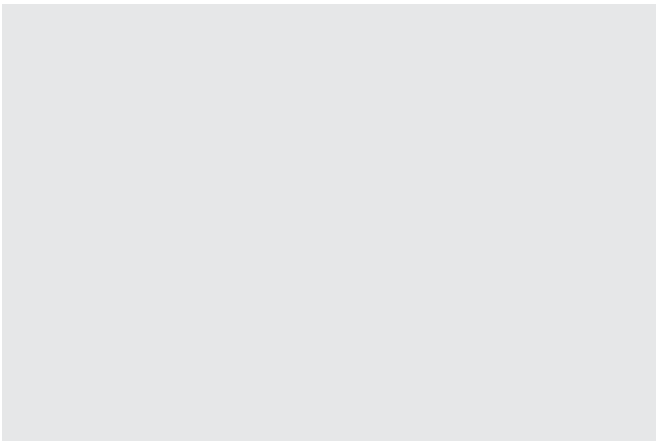
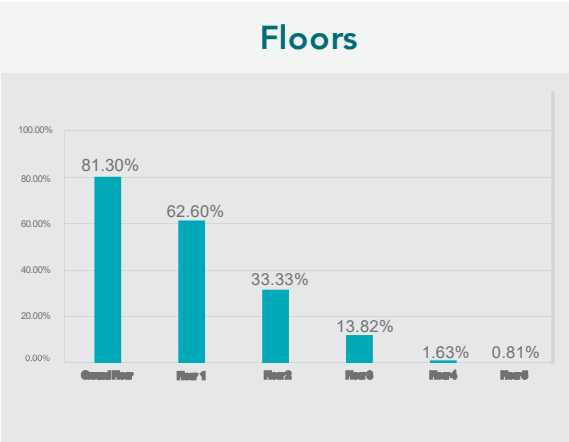


It was found that more than 90 percent of the slopes are made of concrete, while the rest are recently added, including two slopes made of wood (6.5 percent), and one made of iron.

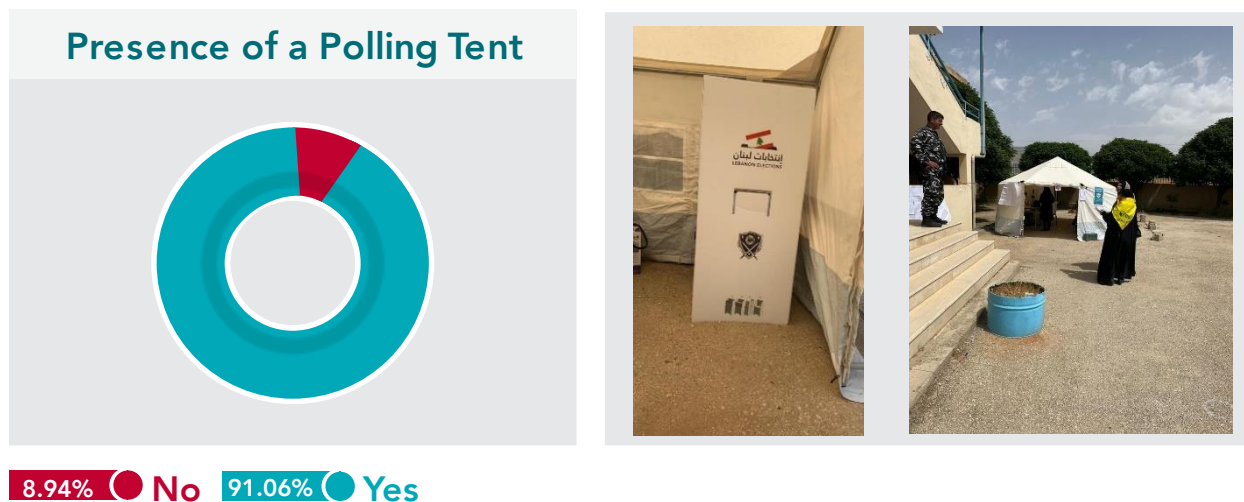


Availability of polling stations on the ground floor

The observation showed that more than 81.3% of the centers used the ground floor for polling, which indicates the ease of the voting process for voters with disabilities and the elderly, without the need for help from others in those centers compared to other centers. This means that the percentage of using the ground floor is widely available and can be generalized.



Use of tents on the ground floors

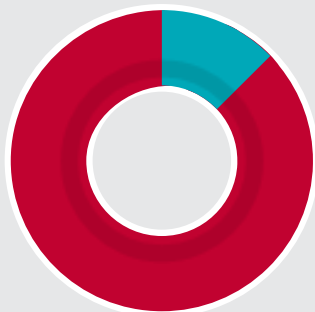


Also, 11 tents were erected in playing areas on the ground floors, that is, in 9% of the surveyed polling centers, distributed among six different electoral districts. It should be noted that using tents in playing areas is very important as an alternative to polling stations on the upper floors in order to facilitate the process for voters with disabilities and the elderly. This set a precedent in this context, despite the use of tents in the previous elections only twice (Kfar Matta and the fire station in Beirut), whereas this was prohibited under the pretext of the integrity of the electoral process. However, work should be done to design tents that are more spacious and more convenient than the ones used.

Elevators, accessibility and availability of electricity

Elevators were available in 14 schools, or 11 percent of the surveyed centers, and electricity was secured in only three of them where elevators were used. Under the pretext of the power outage and the lack of diesel fuel, a large number of voters with disabilities and the elderly were deprived of voting independently and with dignity, as candidate campaign members carried them in a way that harms their dignity and affects the independence of their voting, with obstacles in front of five elevators, or 36 percent. There were also directional signs in front of two elevators, one of which was connected to the electric current. These signs are the necessary instructions to inform voters of the location of the elevator.

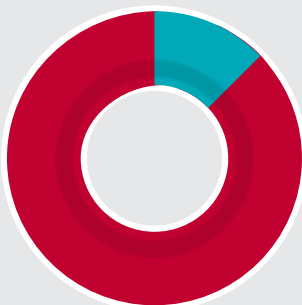
Availability of an Elevator



91.06% ● No 11.38% ● Yes

Pictures of some examples of obstacles in front of elevators:

The Condition of the Elevator in the 14 Centers

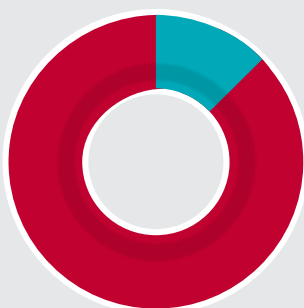


78.57% ● Being used (there is electricity)

21.41% ● Closed of out of service



Presence of Obstacles to Access the Elevator



35.71% ● No 64.29% ● Yes

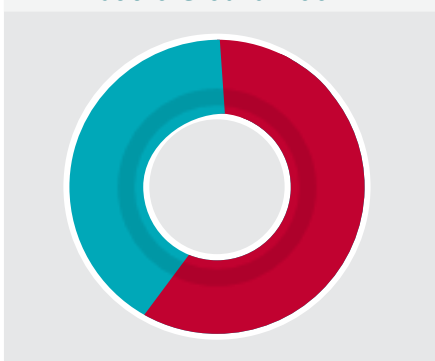


Equipped toilets in schools – polling centers

Equipped toilets are available on the ground floors of 31 schools in 8 electoral districts. The observation groups noted that the number of toilets used and available to enter is 23, while the number of toilets in terms of cleanliness, level of accessibility and ease of entry is 7. This shows the necessity of providing toilets and making them available for use by voters with disabilities, the elderly and the general public during this long day. It is important to have clear and explicit signs to allow them to use them, and to maintain their cleanliness, which is the responsibility of the school administration.

It should be noted that there are only two toilets that have all these specifications combined: use, accessibility, cleanliness and readiness. It was found that signs for equipped toilets are available in only 8 schools.

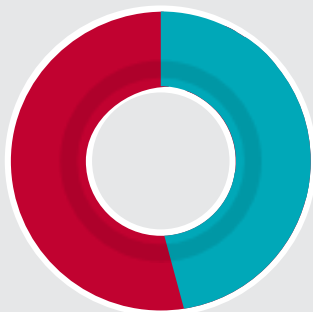
Availability of an Equipped Toilet
at the Ground Floor



56.10% ● No 43.90% ● Yes

Samples of the obstacles in front of the toilets on the ground floors

Presence of Some Obstacles to Access the Toilet

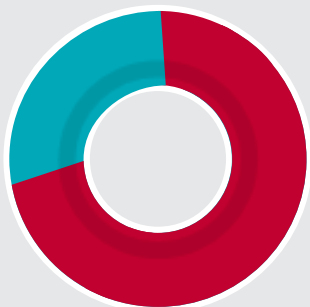


47.05% ● No 52.94% ● Yes

Equipped toilets are available on the upper floors of 17 schools, also distributed in 8 different electoral districts. The inspection revealed that there are 10 used and accessible toilets, three clean and accessible toilets, and two equipped toilets. Observation teams also noticed that there were only signs in three toilets on the upper floors.

The survey also showed that 52.17 percent of the toilet entrances on the upper floors are obstructed, while the rest are easy to enter.

Availability of an Equipped Toilet in Upper Floors



13.8% ● No 86.2% ● Yes

Samples of the obstacles in front of the toilets on the upper floors

Corridors

It was also found that there were obstacles of classroom chairs and tables in 53% of the corridors leading to the polling stations. School corridors are characterized by their wideness, but the chaos and poor organization on Election Day turn these corridors into narrow lanes that do not allow the smooth passage of voters with disabilities and voters in general.

In quite a few polling stations, the position of the ballot box was not suitable for a person with a disability to cast a vote, as it was placed on a high table. Also, the voting booth was not suitable for persons using the wheelchair, in terms of their lack of control over using the pen, due to the height and narrowness of the stand, as the booth does not allow the wheelchair to reach the nearest point at the armrest. The booth shall be redesigned in proportion to the secrecy of the ballot for all voters.



Conclusions and suggestions

”
Coordination between the three ministries, Interior, Education and Social Affairs, has not yielded serious results that contribute to stimulating the participation of persons with disabilities in the voting process. Withholding information and data is part of a mental structure that exists in public administrations where obfuscation and concealment of information are always present.

This is incomprehensible and condemned for explicitly violating Law No. 233/2021 regarding the right to access information,

“

The Minister of Interior's adoption of the right of persons with disabilities to participate independently in the elections and his decision to adopt the ground floors of polling centers as polling stations constituted an opening in the wall of neglect and reluctance and a step on the path to recognizing the rights of marginalized groups in the country. For the first time after the Taif Agreement (with appreciation for the role played by the former Minister Ziad Baroud and the Director General of the Ministry of Interior at the time, Brigadier General Nicolas Haber, in close cooperation to issue Decree No. 2214/2009) and the subsequent approval of Law No. 220/2000 and other laws and decrees that emphasize the political rights of persons with disabilities within the basket of natural rights as individuals and as citizens, a measure is publicly taken to move the polling stations from the upper floors to the ground floors in a number of centers where this possibility is available. Tents have also been adopted in a number of centers. The “My Right” Campaign teams monitored the adoption of polling stations on the ground floors in 81 percent of the centers, the establishment of tents in 11 centers, and the installation of temporary slopes in three centers, out of a total of 123 monitored centers.

bearing in mind that this information is required for the benefit of persons registered with the Ministry of Affairs in terms of enabling them to express their

political aspirations. The effects of publishing lists of equipped public schools are in the public interest, increasing the enrollment of students with disabilities in formal education and subsequently their involvement in the production cycle independently and productively.

The survey and observation also showed clear violations of Article II of Decree No. 2214/2009, which states the following:

“In the event that the architectural specifications stipulated in Article I are not available, the competent authorities shall be required to give the needed instructions to do everything necessary in order to facilitate the participation of persons with special needs in the elections and to emphasize the following procedures and measures:

- 1-** Placing signs directing to the polling place and signs in bold that explain the election mechanism for persons with special needs, outside and inside the polling stations.
- 2-** Allowing persons with special needs to park their cars near polling centers.
- 3-** Working as much as possible on providing pathways that allow persons with special needs to reach the polling station by car.
- 4-** Adopting ground floors in all polling centers, especially large ones, and if not possible, adopting the first floor as a polling center, provided that there are elevators and slopes to facilitate access for persons with special needs after providing the elevator or slopes according to the conditions mentioned in the third and fourth paragraphs of Article I above.
- 5-** Operating electric elevators, if available, to facilitate the voting process of persons with special needs, the elderly, and the sick.
- 6-** Training polling station head officers and security forces on how to deal with persons with special needs in terms of facilitating their access, entry and exit to and from the polling station.
- 7-** In implementation of Article 91 of Law No. 25/2008, a voter with a disability (motor, visual, auditory, mental) who cannot practice their right to vote shall be allowed, under the supervision of the polling station panel, to have the assistance of another voter of their choice.
- 8-** Providing the ability for persons with special needs to fill in the ballot paper inside the booth.
- 9-** Removing external obstacles (municipal works, excavations, bumps...) in front of the polling centers.”

The following are some violations of Article II of the above decree:

No signs were placed in any of the non-covered centers.

- Security forces in charge of supervising the security acted positively and helpfully, despite some problems that occurred concerning parking for persons with disabilities in places close to the entrances. Parking spaces were not available in more than 57 percent of the centers, and in 70 percent of the centers, parking spaces were not close to the entrances.
- There was a serious effort to move polling stations to ground floors. We indicated in the results of the survey that 100 centers out of 123, or 81 percent, have moved the polling stations to ground floors, but the Ministry of Interior's report has not yet been issued to ascertain the final number and the level of compliance with the minister's decision.
- Sources from the Ministry of Interior stated that it has equipped about 240 slopes at polling centers. A report by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education on the works and installations of the Ministry of Interior in this regard is supposed to be issued. It should be noted that quite a few of the photos that have reached us of many hastily placed wooden slopes did not take into account the architectural and technical standards required in terms of the level of slope, the safety of pedestrians, and its location. Also, 7 out of 31 concrete slopes located in the non-covered centers are within the required architectural standards and specifications.
- Electricity was available in only three centers where elevators were used, that is, in 21 percent of the centers where an elevator was available. It is worth noting that out of the nine schools – centers that have solar energy, only one of them has an elevator, yet it has not been used.
- The various obstacles at the entrances to the polling centers made it difficult for persons with disabilities to move and access them. Obstacles caused by bumps, high sidewalks, water channels, trees, lampposts, unpaved roads, etc., should have been addressed and removed in a way that facilitated movement before polling day.
- Direct training was replaced by handing out CDs to polling station head officers and their assistants, including, in part, the instructions to be followed during the voting of persons with disabilities.

Another no less important violation of Article III of the same decree was also noted. Article III states the following:

“An administrative committee headed by the Director General of the Directorate General for Political Affairs and Refugees shall be formed and shall include representatives of the general directorates in the ministries and institutions listed below: Ministry of Public Works and Transport – a representative of the General Directorate of Urban Planning and the General Directorate of Roads and Buildings, Ministry of Education and Higher Education – a representative of the General Directorate of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs – a representative of the General Directorate of Social Affairs, Council for Development and Reconstruction – a representative of the Planning and Programming Department. This committee shall also include one or more representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities that are concerned with defending the rights of persons with special needs in terms of social inclusion, spread throughout the Lebanese territories for more than 5 years. They shall be chosen by the Minister of Interior and Municipalities. The committee may seek the assistance of technicians and specialists when necessary. The task of this committee shall be to develop a guiding plan to facilitate the participation of persons with special needs in the electoral processes that follow the year 2009, and to follow up the implementation of this plan. It shall meet for this purpose at least three times a year, and shall submit an annual report to the Minister of Interior and Municipalities on the implementation and its stages, after which the Minister shall submit it with the opinion and suggestions to the Council of Ministers.”

Failure to activate this committee prevented the establishment of a guiding plan to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in the elections. The persistence in violating the law and decrees by the political authority over the years has deprived persons with disabilities of their rights. On the other hand, it is inevitable to put pressure on that authority by all means guaranteed by the Constitution in order to implement laws and decrees. In order for rights not to remain linked to a goodwill initiative by a minister, they must be based on international laws and charters, to be transformed into practical policies and procedures that public administrations are committed to, without any favor from anyone.

Section Three

Violations against voters with disabilities

Section Three: Violations against voters with disabilities

This section of the report deals with the most prominent violations that the “My Right” Campaign observers monitored and documented during the voting process by persons with disabilities. It is based on the analysis of 204 forms. Of course, the sample here differs from the sample in the first section of the report (where all polling centers were monitored as a sample, and whose numbers and percentages depend on its scientificity). As for the information on the interaction of voters with disabilities who were monitored by the observers while they were in the polling centers (parking space, entrance, elevator), it is provided as an enrichment for the report only.

1. With regard to the accessibility of voters with disabilities, the following is noted:

Parking spaces: Security forces did not facilitate the passage of vehicles of persons with disabilities to the entrance to the polling center, with a rate of 7.8 percent (16 cases). It should be noted that 20.1 percent (41 cases) of the polling centers do not have parking spaces designated for persons with disabilities near them. Security forces also did not allow people to stand near the entrance to the polling center or to enter its precincts, with a rate of 10.1 percent (22 cases).

On the other hand, the cooperation of the security forces responsible for protecting the polling centers was noted, as it was repeated that the ISF members removed the obstacles that prevented voters with disabilities from reaching the center by themselves.

Entrance: Observation teams observed that 23.5 percent (48 cases) of the main entrances to the polling centers are unsuitable or narrow, or there are obstacles in front of them that prevent voters with disabilities from entering independently.

Also, in 8.3 percent of the cases (17 cases), an alternative entrance was available in the polling center that was easy for persons with disabilities to use, but this entrance was not used.

Inside the center: There are no signs or directions written on papers or on signs explaining the voting process for voters with disabilities, especially for mentally

disabled persons. This was mentioned in 19.6 percent of cases (40), based on the testimony of voters with disabilities themselves. Obstacles within the centers preventing access to stairs and elevators were also observed in 15.7 percent of the centers (32 cases).

Elevator: The centers in which elevators are available were the focus of observers, as it was found that the elevator was broken in 4 cases, and closed in 7; in addition to the emergency power outages in 4 cases, which prevented the use of these elevators by persons with disabilities to reach their polling stations on the upper floors. As for the centers where the elevators did not operate and there were no polling stations available on the ground floors, the scene of carrying persons with disabilities on the stairs or harming physically disabled voters who used crutches or walkers to climb stairs was repeated. Campaign teams noted this as a common case in these centers. Some voters expressed that climbing up the stairs was annoying and painful.

Polling stations: The observers noticed that the polling stations for persons with disabilities while they were in the center were not transferred to the ground floor in 22.5 percent of the cases (46 cases), and that in 7.4 percent of the cases (15 cases), the polling station transferred to the ground floor was not the polling station specific for the person with a disability, according to the checklists. It should also be noted that polling stations, regardless of their location, witnessed chaos and jostling in 14.7 percent of the cases (30 cases), which constitute additional obstacles that make it difficult for persons with disabilities to vote independently.

Voting booth: It appears from the design of the booth made of reinforced cardboard, and its absence in the first place, that it loses its isolating quality in general. Its height also constitutes an obstacle to voting of persons with disabilities, as most of the physically disabled voters who use wheelchairs are not able to use the small booth platform to write on the ballot paper. In two cases, the booth was in a high place, and it was lowered to the ground so that voters with disabilities could use it.

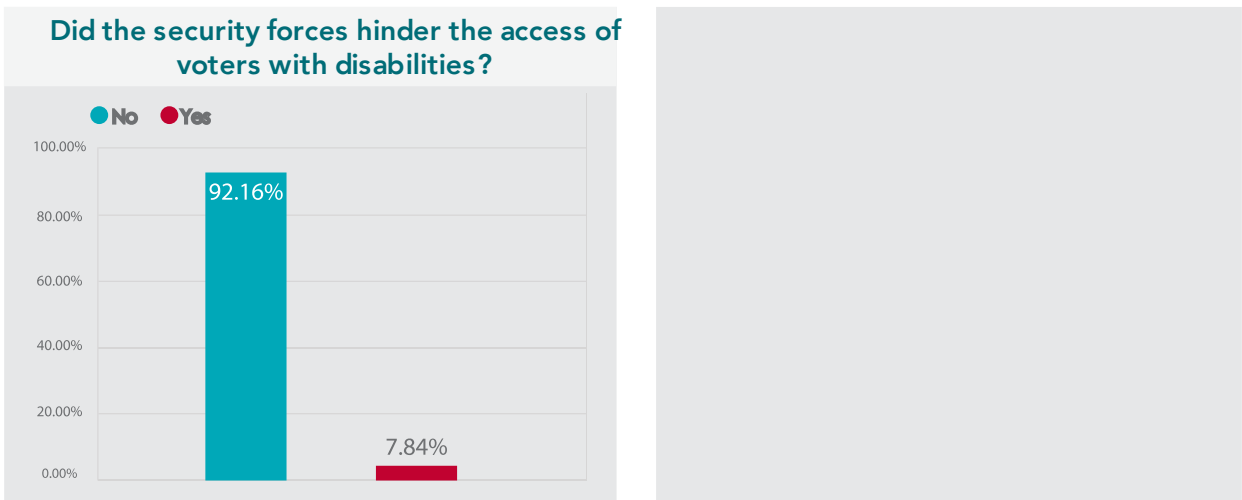
Polling station head officer: Polling station head officers bear great responsibilities towards persons with disabilities. In every election, there are repeated behaviors by them that indicate that they did not have any education or training, or they do not follow the instructions on how to deal with persons with disabilities. The campaign observers noted that 4 persons with disabilities were forced to complete the ballot paper outside the booth. The heads of the polling station dropped the ballot paper in the ballot box instead of the voters with disabilities in 8.8 percent of the cases (18). They observed that they treated five persons with disabilities with pity, and that they pressured voters with disabilities to speed up the voting process in 3 percent of cases (6 cases).

Ballot box: In most cases, the physically disabled voters who use wheelchairs, after moving from the booth to the ballot box, were not able to insert the ballot paper (the envelope) themselves because the height of the box does not fit their needs. In one of the polling stations, the box was placed in a narrow place that persons with disabilities could not reach. Thus, it was either the polling station head officer, their assistant, or the person accompanying the person with a disability who inserted the ballot paper in the box. In three cases, the heads of the polling stations lowered the box to a level where persons with disabilities could enter the paper themselves.

Observers monitored 17 cases in which the treatment of persons with disabilities was inappropriate, and one of the “My Right” Campaign observers was ridiculed for having a disability. There were frequent cases of leaving voters with disabilities on the upper floors of polling centers after obtaining their votes, as members of the candidates’ electoral campaign carried them and then neglected them. Observers noted cases of interference by partisan authorities in voting of persons with disabilities, including entering with them behind the booth and inserting the ballot paper in the box instead of them.

Notes on the security forces facilitating the voting process for persons with disabilities

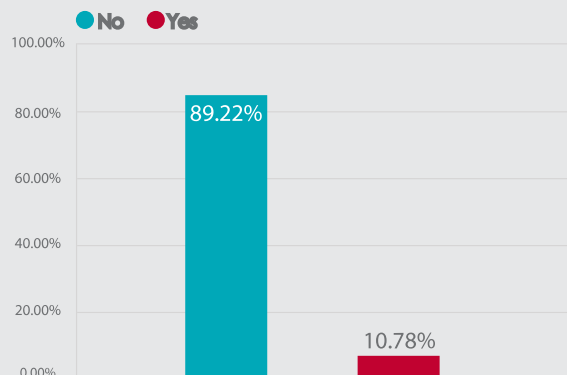
It appears that the cooperation of members of the Internal Security Forces regarding the access of persons with disabilities to the polling stations was significant, with more than 92 percent of cases. The direct impact of the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities with the Campaign and with the rights of persons with disabilities as a whole cannot be overlooked. Campaign observers in Central Bekaa, for example, noted that security forces welcomed them, and did not prevent them from accessing or photographing, in more than one center, unlike what was happening in the previous elections, as if



circulars issued by the Ministry of Interior were firm this year.

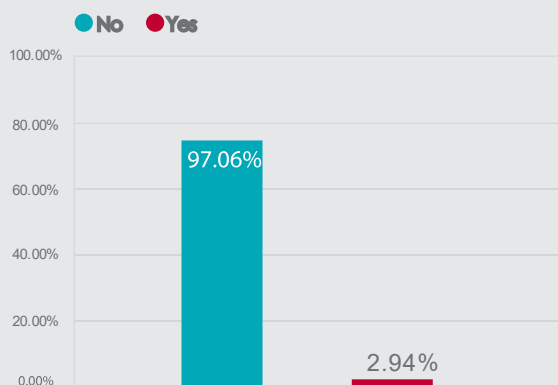
Campaign observers also observed that about 90 percent of voters with disabilities were able, with the help of the security forces, to park their cars in the place closest to the doors of the polling centers, all of which are schools. In addition, security forces facilitated the access of persons with disabilities to the front of the center by car, in about 92 percent of the cases. It is a remarkable cooperation when compared to the previous elections. It should be noted that this type of assistance is linked to Article II of Decree No. 2214/2009, which expresses an exceptional and not a permanent situation. It is resorted to in the event that public facilities are not available that require the presence of a special parking for persons with disabilities in the place closest to the polling center, so they can use it independently.

Were persons with disabilities prevented from parking their cars near the center?



We note that the security forces' prohibition against accompanying a voter with a disability was clearly demonstrated in the previous elections. For example, 28 percent were prohibited in the previous elections in 2018, despite the fact that the legal article is the same. As for the 2022 elections, we find that 97 percent of persons with disabilities were able to have a companion without the slightest problem.

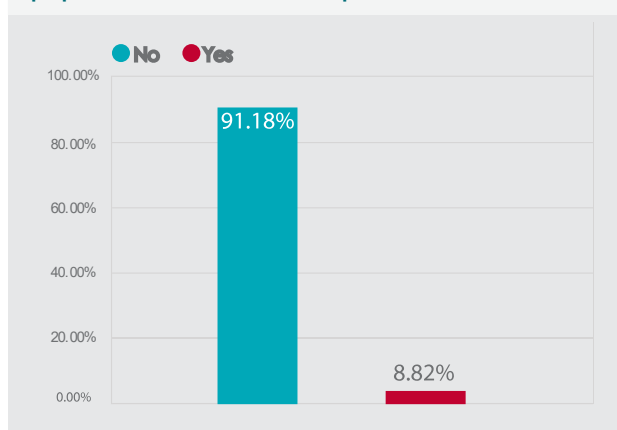
Were persons with disabilities prevented from being accompanied?



Notes on the polling station panel dealing with voters with disabilities

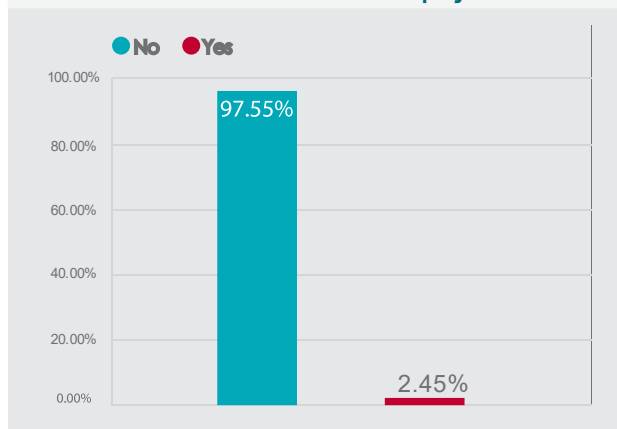
Only about 9 percent of persons with disabilities managed to insert their ballot paper into the box themselves, while the polling station head officer inserted the paper instead of the person with a disability in about 91 percent of cases. Despite the repetition of this violation, it appears that it was meant to “help” persons with disabilities in every election.

The head of the polling station inserts the ballot paper in the box instead of persons with disabilities

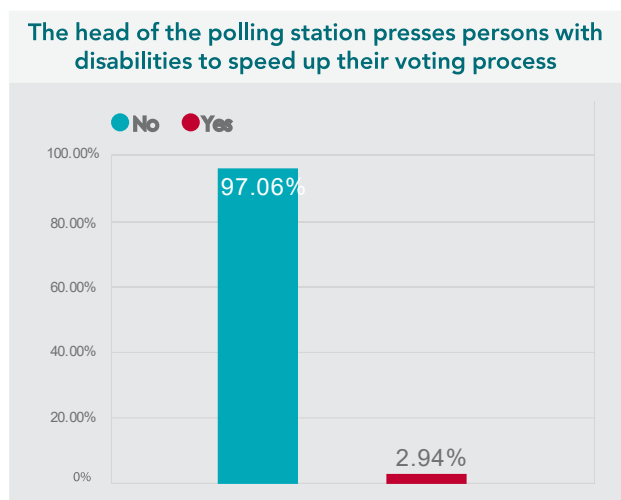


It appears that about 2.5 percent of persons with disabilities were treated by polling station heads with pity. No matter how many persons with disabilities are mistreated, this is the case in every election. It shows a negative impact on persons with disabilities by treating them with pity at times and with sarcasm at other times (two cases were observed), by detracting from their humanity.

The head of the polling station treats persons with disabilities with pity



Inside the polling station, monitoring operations showed that about 3 percent of persons with disabilities were pressured by the polling station head (verbal commands, grumbling) to complete their voting process quickly. This behavior indicates that the polling station panel lacks sufficient awareness of the capabilities of voters with disabilities and their additional needs. If we add to this that 14.7 percent of polling stations have experienced chaos and jostling, the impact can be very negative on voters with disabilities.



Observers monitored separate cases of how polling station heads dealt with persons with disabilities, including: delaying persons with disabilities and letting others pass in front of them to vote, the head of the polling station preventing the Campaign observer from entering, an unknown person sitting next to the head of the polling station and their assistant, completing the ballot paper instead of the person with a disability, voters with disabilities having to explain their right to have someone assisting them during the voting process.

The validity of the voting process depends on the extent of the polling station head and clerk's awareness and knowledge of the laws in force, and their training on how to deal with voters in general and voters with disabilities in particular. It is therefore necessary to adopt and develop the training manuals produced by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities prior to the 2009 and 2018 elections on the one hand, and practical training of polling station heads and clerks sufficiently before the general elections. Most of the violations related to the performance and behavior of the polling station panel during the voting of persons with disabilities could have been avoided if they had sufficient awareness of these issues.

Section Four

Interviews with voters with disabilities
on election day

Section Four: Interviews with voters with disabilities on election day

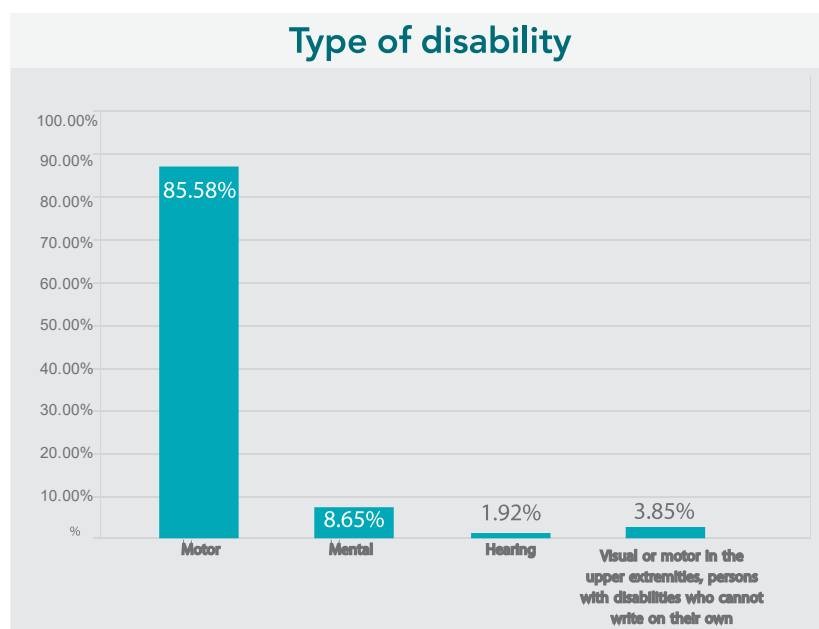
First: Inside polling centers

Due to the nature of the work of the mobile teams of the “My Right” Campaign observers in the 2022 elections, they were not able to monitor the voting operations of persons with disabilities in the centers specified in the observation map. The observers conducted interviews with 104 voters with disabilities, after completing the voting process in the polling center courtyards and playing areas. Although the interviews have a limited value as to the results of the observation process as a whole, they are of great importance in identifying the category of voters with disabilities and their knowledge of their rights on the one hand, as well as identifying what they see as a violation of these rights on the other hand.

1. Voters with disabilities

Interviews were conducted with 104 persons with disabilities, 44 of whom were female, 59 were male, and one person preferred not to specify their gender. In terms of age groups, two of them were under 24 years old, 6 were between 25 and 29 years old, 18 were between 35 and 45 years old, and 78 were over forty-six years old. Only six of them were voting for the first time.

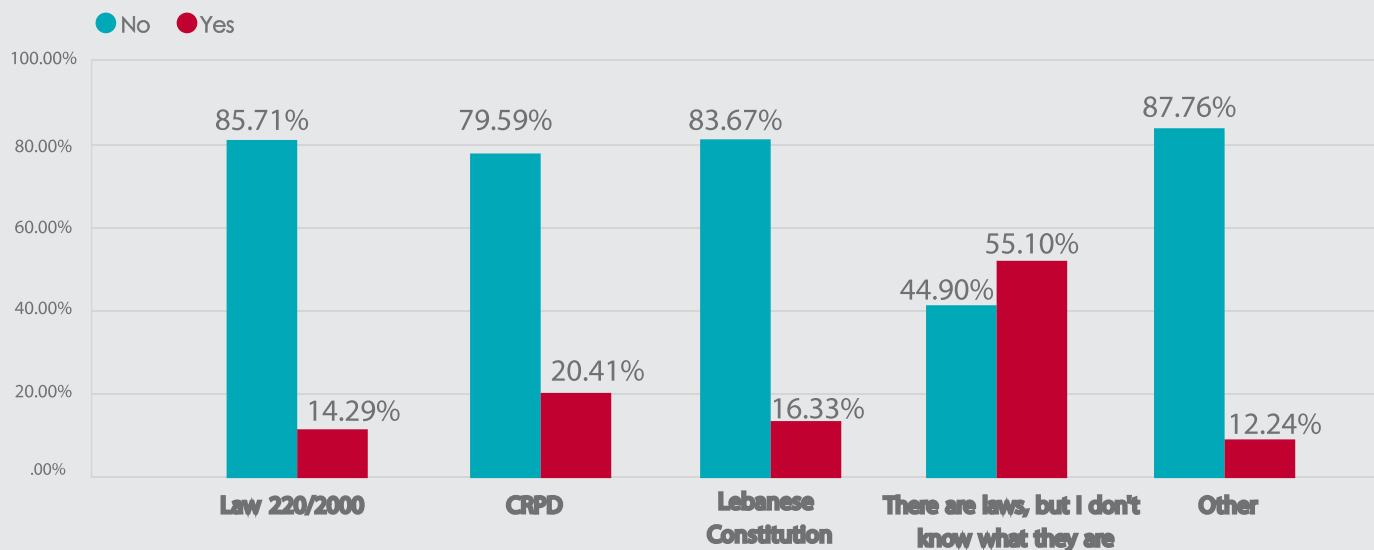
In terms of disability type, the interviewees were divided as follows: 89 persons with a movement disability, 2 with a hearing disability, 9 with an intellectual disability, and four persons with a visual impairment.



2. Knowledge of rights

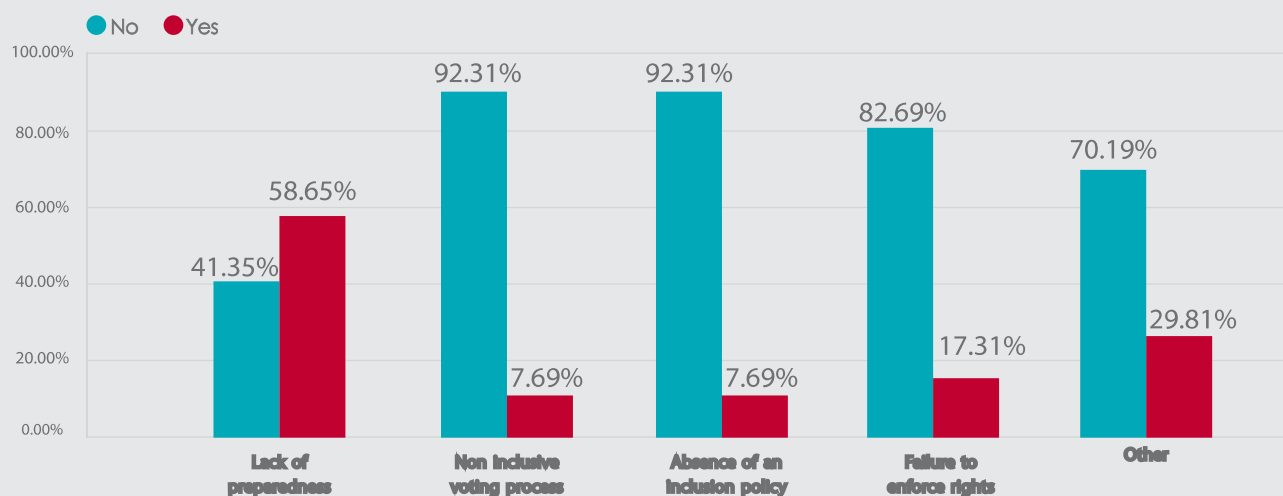
Through the interviews, it was found that about 27 percent of persons with disabilities who were interviewed knew of the existence of legislation related to the rights of persons with disabilities. 20 percent had little knowledge, while 53 percent did not know about the existence of these legislations. As for identifying laws that protect the rights of persons with disabilities in general, of the total of those who said they know or have little knowledge, about 85 percent were unable to identify Law No. 220/2000 and 80 percent the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. 83 percent were unable to identify the Lebanese Constitution. Thus, knowledge of the existence of legislation was limited to only 22 percent, as seven persons identified Law No. 220/2000, ten persons the International Convention, and eight persons the Lebanese Constitution. The number of persons who said that there are laws but did not know them was 27.

Identifying legislation that protects the rights of persons with disabilities



3. Barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating in elections

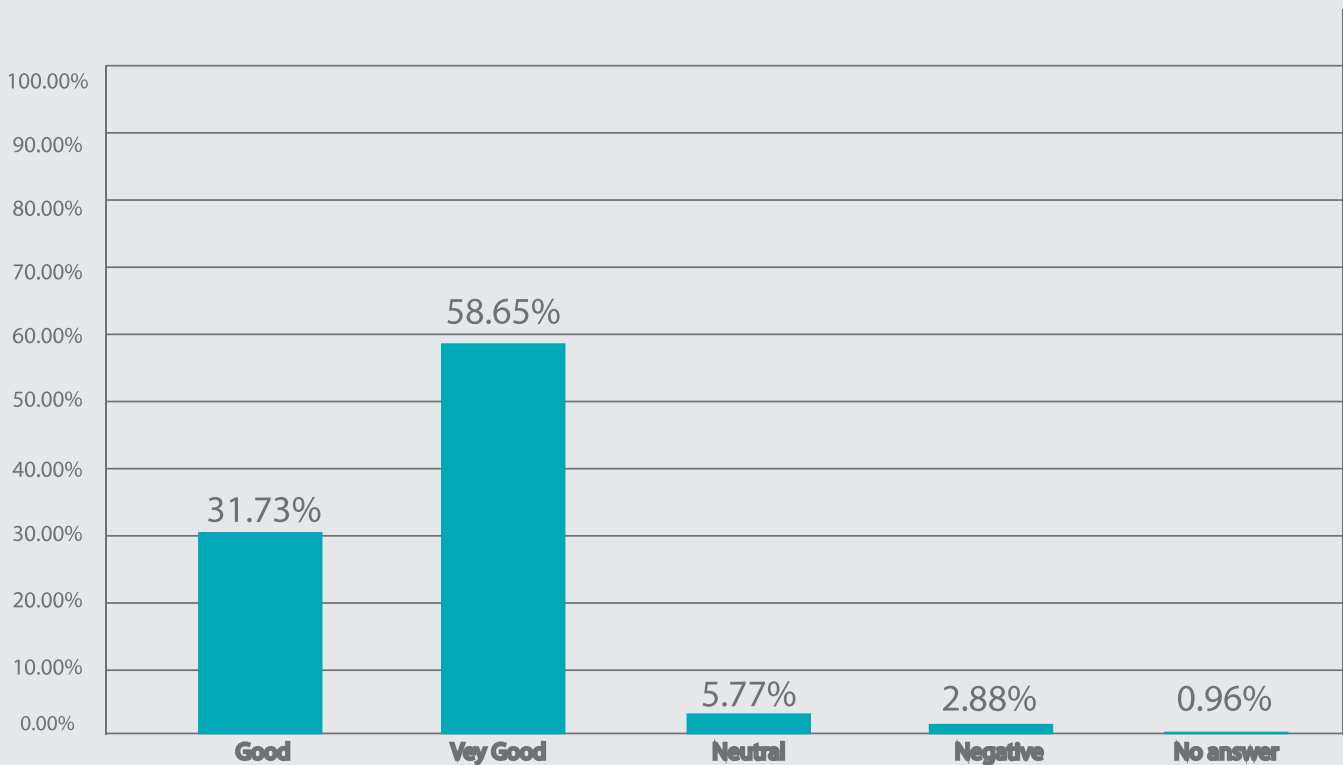
Do obstacles prevent a person with a disability from participating in the elections?



About 59 percent of the voters with disabilities who were interviewed believed that persons with disabilities do not participate extensively in the general elections due to the absence of architectural installations that respect their needs. About 8 percent were able to express that “the elections are not inclusive”, and about the same percentage “the absence of a policy of inclusion”. 17 percent believed that the lack of implementation of rights prevents the participation of persons with disabilities. About 30 percent detailed the obstacles as follows: difficulty climbing stairs 7 percent, difficult access 3.4 percent, needing a wheelchair 3.4 percent, needing to be accompanied 3.4 percent, distance of car parking 7 percent, and crowding 3.4 percent.

4. Dealing with voters with disabilities during the voting process

Interaction during the voting process



About 90 percent of the voters with disabilities who were interviewed inside the polling centers stated that interaction was good or very good, while about 3 percent considered that interaction was negative. They specified this as follows: one was verbally abused, and one was unable to move inside the polling station and use the booth, while one complained about being prevented from allowing their assistant to accompany them inside the polling station, and another behind the booth. One person also expressed that the head of the polling station treated them with pity, and another that the head of the polling station intervened and inserted the ballot paper in the box instead of them.

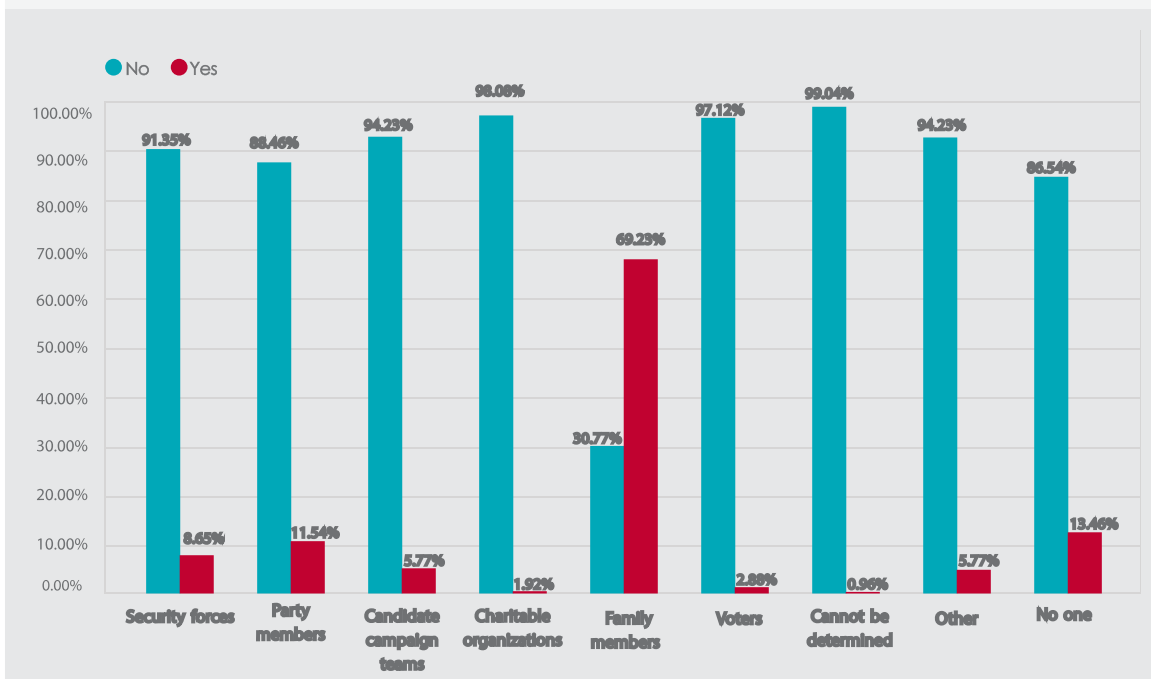
These answers are generally considered through the circumstances that accompanied the voting of persons with disabilities and the extent to which they are aware of their rights, on top of which comes the person accompanying the person with a disability inside the polling center and the extent to which they are affected by them.

The persons accompanying persons with disabilities belong to these categories as follows:

- **69** percent family members
- **7** percent security forces
- **12** percent party members

It is also very important that observers monitored people who accompanied persons with disabilities during the interview, as the majority of them (about 92 percent) were with their relatives, while the others were accompanied by party members or list agents. It should be noted that persons with disabilities, during the interviews, in the presence of these people, seemed worried, cautious, (11 percent), satisfied (53 percent), and about 31 percent expressed their pride in voting for the list they want.

Entities that accompanied persons with disabilities inside the polling center



Second: Interviews with persons who provided the Union with their personal data

Based on cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, regarding the adoption of polling stations in the ground floors, the use of elevators where available, and the creation of polling stations in tents in the courtyards of the centers, the Union asked persons with disabilities wishing to participate in the electoral process to provide it with their data. The personal (full name, register place and number), to send it to the Operations Room at the Ministry of Interior before the elections in order to ensure that they complete their voting process independently. 174 persons contacted the Union and expressed their desire to participate if the voting process is inclusive and respects their needs. Indeed, the Union provided the Ministry with this list in order to implement its promises.

Following the elections, the “My Right” Campaign volunteers were able to contact 104 of these people to find out how they voted. Out of these, 64 persons (about 61.5 percent) participated in the electoral process, while forty persons did not participate (about 38.5 percent).

1. **Persons with disabilities refraining from participating:** Persons with disabilities who provided the Union with their data and did not participate in the elections stated the following reasons for their refusal to participate:
 - Poor health condition due to the disability and its severity, which makes it very difficult to reach the polling centers without being transferred by a competent authority. In this regard, M. K. (muscular dystrophy) said: “I did not participate in the voting process, because I live in Baalbek and my register is in Ghobeiry, so I cannot go there because of my difficult health condition. We also asked several parties to help us to take me to the polling center, but to no avail”. The physically disabled young woman, B. Y. said: “I did not participate in the elections due to the severity of my disability; I became completely unable to move and I cannot breathe without an oxygen tank”.
 - The costs they will incur for transportation in case of participation.
 - Some lack official documents such as ID card or passport.
 - Names of some of them do not appear on checklists.
 - Despair of the bitter Lebanese situation as there is no hope for change. The physically handicapped young man H. Kh. said: “I did not participate because of my despair over the difficult Lebanese situation, and because

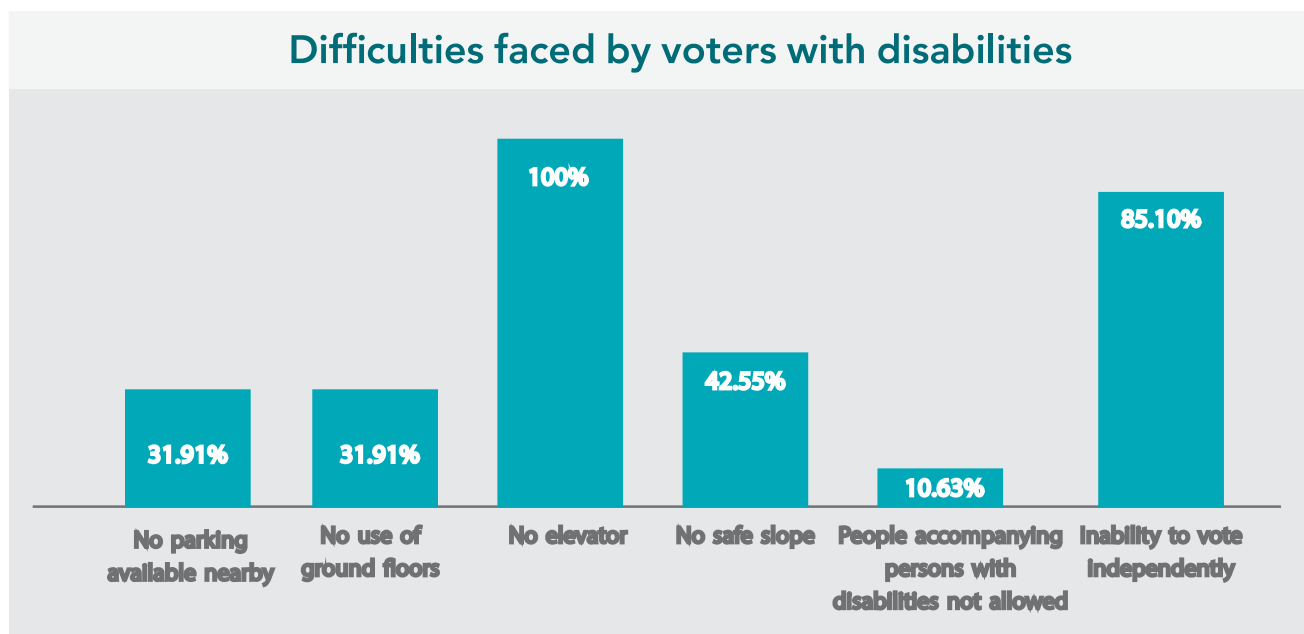
of need, and poverty. Therefore, I do not want to vote in order not to re-elect the same political authority, which was the cause of our crises today". The physically disabled young man H. D. said:

”There is no electricity in my house so I cannot watch TV and follow political news, in order to be familiar with the electoral programs, and I choose on this basis, so I preferred not to participate”.

2. Participants in the elections

64 out of the 104 people contacted by the Campaign volunteers participated in the electoral process. Out of these, 47 (73.4 percent) said they encountered difficulties during voting, while 17 (26.6%) said they did not encounter any difficulties while voting.

People who encountered difficulties reported the following:



- 15 persons with disabilities reported the difficulty of finding a parking spot near the center, which forced them to park far away and walk to reach the polling center.
- 15 persons with disabilities pointed out that the rooms on the ground floors were not used as polling stations despite their request, as the polling stations were on the upper floors of the centers. The physically handicapped young man, R. Z. said:

“I participated in the electoral process, but with difficulty, as I was taken to the center by bus, where I was carried to get on and off the bus and reach the polling center, and this caused me severe psychological pain. The security forces were cooperative as one of them helped me and put the envelope in the box, but the center was very crowded”.

- There are no elevators at all polling centers where the 47 participants cast their votes.
- 20 persons with disabilities identified the difficulty of not having a safe slope at the internal and external polling center gates to reach the inside of the polling center. In this context, the brother of the physically disabled woman N. N. said: “I carried her on my own to get her to the center, and that was very difficult, as there were no safe slopes at the doors of the center, but there were several steps (approximately 20 steps) to reach the polling station. The security forces were cooperative, but I could not find anyone to help me to carry her...”. The handicapped young man Y. K. said: “I reached the center on foot, but the center gate was about one step off the ground. I had to ask someone for help to get past this gate, and then I tried to lean on a car that was parked next to me to rest a bit, but one of the security forces scolded me for that”.
- Transportation costs are high to get to the polling centers (general complaint).
- 5 persons with disabilities indicated that people accompanying them were not allowed to enter the polling station and help the voter behind the booth. The physically disabled woman, A. A. said:

“They did not allow the person accompanying me to enter with me behind the booth, even though I need their help”.

- Inability to enter and exit the center independently and easily without the help of others.
- Absence of aids and unavailability of signs and posters with easy instructions, pictures, or video to help complete the voting process independently (general complaint).
- Forty of the voters with disabilities pointed out the lack of volunteers to help them in many centers.
- Some voters with disabilities indicated that the centers were overcrowded, where they waited, and they were not allowed to enter before those present. The handicapped young woman said D. S. said:

“The polling station was on the second floor, and climbing the stairs was very difficult, but it was my sister’s husband who helped me to reach the second floor. I did not find any attention or help from anyone in the center, and I was very tired and exhausted because of the heat and hunger. I waited about an hour until it was my turn”.

It is worth mentioning that there is a number of violations that the Campaign volunteers observed during the interviews, including:

- A member of the family of a voter with disabilities taking advantage of his choice and voting instead of him. In this context, the father of H. J., a mentally handicapped young man: “I’m the one who picked the list and the preferential vote, and dropped the envelope in the box, he can’t do that”.
- The ease of exploiting and distorting the will of these voters, due to the absence of possibilities that allow them to participate in the electoral process independently, as those who help them do so. The handicapped young man, A. B. said: “I was carried to the polling station, which was on the ground floor, as there were several steps to reach the polling station and there were no slopes. And the person who carried me and accompanied me dropped the envelope into the ballot box”. The father of the handicapped young man, M. N. said: “My son does not know how to read or write, so I chose the list and preferential vote and dropped the envelope in the box”.

Recommendations

Freedom of persons with disabilities from systemic discrimination and exclusion depends on political decisions and fair representation of diversity

More than a billion people around the world have some kind of disability, i.e. one sixth of the world's population, and the majority of them live in developing countries (Lebanon is one of these countries). This number is likely to increase due to several factors, including climate change, natural disasters, wars, aging and the increase in poverty. Poverty prevails among persons with disabilities at a higher rate than persons without disabilities, as a result of discrimination, racism and the difficulty of accessing and obtaining basic services. When persons with disabilities are excluded, it is impossible to avoid poverty and marginalization.

Lebanon

In light of the current conditions in Lebanon, disasters affect persons with disabilities first, as they are the most vulnerable group. Among these disasters, we mention the Covid-19 pandemic, the explosion of the Port of Beirut, the economic collapse, the rampant corruption in public administrations, and the non-inclusive built environment. Therefore, the first condition for achieving inclusive development, breaking out of the cycle of poverty and marginalization, and achieving growth and progress is the removal of barriers and all forms of discrimination and the elimination of various obstacles that prevent the participation of persons with disabilities in the course of political rights. One of the most effective tools for persons with disabilities to exercise their political rights is voting and candidacy.

Rights of persons with disabilities are civil rights

Democratic societies derive their policies, performance, and values from the members of society themselves. Persons with disabilities are committed to society like non-disabled persons, and perhaps more, because they see their interest in the social contract and in the rule of law, based on their constant search for protection and equity, and because they are among the vulnerable groups. They

coften face barriers to participation, including discrimination that prevents them from accessibility, social exclusion and systematic persecution, and even a wide range of forms of class, categorical, and racial marginalization, not to mention the closed paths. If we accept the idea that society is made of people and for people, all people, then this means that persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups must be accounted for.

Inclusive democracy presupposes the full participation of all members of society, regardless of gender, race, disability, belief, social class and character. Hence, we define inclusive democracy as a democratic model that enables all people to exercise their rights to vote independently and with dignity, and to become candidates without facing practical or moral obstacles, such as being mocked for any reason related to diversity, for example disability.

So, let us imagine what a democratic system that serves and includes all is.

Inclusive democracy does not stop at good and correct representation only, but it also secures a responsible system that promotes and enhances the participation of all people, that is, it secures a system that considers the participation of citizens as a right and not a privilege for only some. Inclusive democracy provides and allows the participation of all people, including persons with disabilities, to make policies and influence policies that harm them and detract from their rights.

But what actually happens is that politicians often make decisions in the name and at the expense of persons with disabilities. They do not resemble this category in terms of social rights orientation, and do not reflect the representation of the diversity of marginalized groups. This is not democratic and certainly not inclusive.

Hence, organizations of persons with disabilities must work together, unify their efforts and decisions to achieve their goal, as well as cooperate with other social groups and marginalized groups involved in the reform process. Voices must be focused and built on intersectionality to reformulate democracy to become inclusive and representative of the people's will, especially after receiving disappointments after disappointments with the current policies made by politicians who do not resemble human rights organizations, do not represent their members, and do not reflect their diversity.

Together, organizations must overcome legal barriers, and exclusionary measures, to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups at the center of decision-making positions, in order to eliminate the failure of the current "democracy". When we talk about political rights, it is not only

about technical and practical matters, but rather political participation in its broadest sense should be proposed, that is, persons with disabilities and other individuals who represent marginalized groups should be candidates in the elections and be involved in political processes to contribute to change and achieve inclusion.

Accordingly, whereas the Lebanese Parliament has authorized the government to “ratify the Convention on Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol” in Law No. 291, issued in the Official Gazette (Annex to No. 17, dated April 14, 2022). Since the Convention guarantees progress towards upgrading the Lebanese legislation related to the rights of this group to its level, on the one hand, and enables organizations of persons with disabilities to monitor its proper implementation by the government, on the other hand. In Article 29 of the Convention, the Convention clearly stipulates the political rights of persons with disabilities, as follows: “States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake: (a) to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, (b) to promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs”.

Since we are today in the phase between the parliamentary elections (which were observed and monitored in this report) and the upcoming municipal elections next year, the recommendations listed below are divided into two packages. The first, on the long term, reflects what is required strategically so that all obstacles that hinder the access of persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups to their rights independently and with dignity are removed. The second, on the short term, ensures the commitment of the government and the concerned administrations to achieve the minimum requirements before the upcoming municipal elections.

First: Short-term recommendations (2023)

The LUPD seeks, through advocacy, campaigns, awareness-raising, and pressure in all democratic forms guaranteed by the Constitution, to push the political authority to adopt the basket of rights from the perspective of a culture of inclusion. Its main contribution to the drafting of Decree No. 2214/2009 is only a step on this path. Marginalized groups have nothing but the law to achieve their rightful demands, to get out of the exclusion zone, and to break closed doors. It is the bias towards justice in rights and duties, undiminished citizenship, partnership in expression and production... The most marginalized and excluded groups are the most demanding of state building and respect for the law. The strong break the law without accountability and oversight, and authority is the club of the strong.

We must recall this to emphasize the importance of implementing and respecting laws, specifically with regard to **Law No. 233/2021 on the right to access information and the implementation of Decree No. 2214/2009 on the procedures and measures related to facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities in parliamentary and municipal elections, specifically Articles II and III thereof, in preparation for the municipal elections** scheduled for next year, in 2023.

- Calling for the establishment of the “**Administrative Committee for the Development of the Guiding Plan**” stipulated in **Article III of Decree No. 2214/2009** as soon as possible.
- Opening a discussion about the role and position of the Ministry of Education in this context, in preparation for establishing effective and public steps towards educational inclusion. Working to amend **Decree No. 9091/2002 on setting standards and measurements for public school buildings in pre-university** public education, towards introducing architectural inclusion standards in school buildings.
- Activating and disseminating the media code of conduct.

Taking effective steps on several levels simultaneously:

Administrative level: Suggesting mechanisms for coordination, follow-up and cooperation between all stakeholders at more than one level, from

the administrative committee to schools and municipalities in each approved register, passing through governors, Qaimaqams and municipal councils to the heads of educational regions and school directors at the Ministry of Education.

Architectural level: Pre-inspection of schools-centers, adoption of inclusive architectural standards in constructing, repairing and installing slopes, proposing inclusive designs for tents and booths.

Maintenance level: In connection with the roles entrusted to municipalities: removing obstacles in front of the entrances and carrying out works to facilitate access and entry, and to school administrations: preparing and cleaning toilets, and securing electricity for elevators, if available, and securing halls on the ground floors.

Access to information: A parallel media campaign, reaching the widest range of persons with disabilities to motivate them to participate, taking into account the privacy of that information, obtaining the Ministry of Education's data and reports on the condition of public schools.

Providing directional signs: Enabling blind persons to vote through lists printed in Braille, distributing directional signs in all centers at elevators, equipped toilets, and polling station locations in the centers with the names of voters in the appropriate locations and standards.

Training and Awareness: Spreading human rights awareness and training for heads of polling stations and security forces, and not only training through CDs.

○ Civil society organizations and associations involved in electoral reform and related activities should deepen their knowledge of inclusion issues and systematize these issues within their reform programs in an inclusive and continuous manner, by organizing interactive learning activities in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, allowing them to gain knowledge, experience and capacity building.

Inclusive External Environment: Issuance of inclusive external environment standards in specifications by LIBNOR in order to facilitate the safe movement for persons with disabilities and others and to complete the urban and inclusive built landscape to cover newly licensed public buildings, in accordance with Decree No. 7194. As well as the entire urban

transport network, including roads, sidewalks, external corridors, public transport means and stations, and open spaces designated for the public: gardens, parks, beaches and public spaces. This will move us towards what has become globally known as smart cities compatible with social, economic and environmental standards, and the use of renewable energy.

Second: Long-term recommendations

After establishing the adoption of the ground floor rooms as polling stations and ensuring the operation of the elevators where available and experimenting with the tent models in the courtyards of the centers and adopting the inclusive model thereof, the focus should be on the following:

- Repealing all texts and expressions describing persons with disabilities in the electoral law (current or in any new draft law) that contradict the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (including terms referring to incapacity or impairment, etc.), and including in the electoral law the provisions of Article 29 - Paragraph (a) of this Convention.
- Full commitment by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, and the relevant ministries and administrations, to implement the provisions of Paragraph (a) of Article 29 of the International Convention, including:
 - o Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use.
 - o Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and to perform all public functions in government at all levels, and facilitating the use of new and assistive technology where required.
 - o Ensuring that persons with disabilities are free to express their will as voters, and allowing them, where appropriate, to this end, to choose a person to help them vote.

- The **Administrative Committee stipulated in Article III of Decree No. 2214/2009** shall work to implement its proposed plan in the time interval between the municipal elections (2023) and the parliamentary elections (2026), and the commitment of each of its participants to the role assigned to it within its powers.

- Adopting all polling centers from the list of public schools in Lebanon, and all polling stations shall be on the ground floors, with a proposal for a modern model for the new polling station.

- Adapting the voting process to suit all needs, with the use of the various available methods and alternatives, including electronic alternatives for persons with visual, hearing, mental and physical disabilities.

- Ensuring the protection and maintenance of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and respecting their right to vote and to be elected.

- Civil society organizations and associations involved in electoral reform and related activities shall:

- o Advocate for stakeholder organizations in the process of advocating and preparing for an inclusive and fair election law.

- o Include information related to persons with disabilities in research, monitoring and observation tools.

- o Ally and volunteer with organizations of persons with disabilities in their quest to achieve inclusive elections.

- o Prepare organizations to accommodate persons with disabilities and welcome them as members within their organizations and events, starting with related activities.

- **Municipal councils and unions of municipalities:**

- Establishing an information map for the demographic distribution of persons with disabilities in order to facilitate the plan for preparing the approved places for elections.

- Opening an item in the budget devoted to equipping and adapting for the application of inclusive standards in places designated for public use.

- Building the capacities of the technical and administrative teams to develop the possibility of inclusive management.

- Adopting a consultative approach with rights holders' organizations aimed at developing, following up and promoting inclusion in their municipal projects and programmes.

• **Inclusive external environment:** After Lebanon ratified the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the concerned authorities must work to implement Article 9 thereof, which provides an inclusive environment through the following:

To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia:

- a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;
- b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

• **States Parties shall also take appropriate measures:**

- a) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- b) To ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- c) To provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;
- d) To provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;
- e) To provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;

- f) To promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;
- g) To promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;
- h) To promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.

- **At the level of the Election Supervisory Commission:**

- Adopting an independent electoral administration.
- Amending the law on the Election Supervisory Commission so that its role covers the protection of all groups, including of persons with disabilities.
- Adopting the megacenter and the right to vote in the place of residence and in different ways and means to take into account the rights of voters.
- Adopting a law that provides all elements of equality and inclusive democracy, protects and preserves the rights of diverse groups of society, prohibits all forms of discrimination, violence and racism, and takes into account class disparities in financial matters regarding candidacy and related activities.

- **At the level of rights holders' organizations:**

Encouraging and supporting persons with disabilities to run for elections, through an integrated campaign that includes technical support for empowerment and opening closed doors through advocacy and designing the necessary policies.

- **At the level of the Association of Banks and the relevant ministries:**

- Establishing procedures and policies to prevent obstructing or depriving persons with disabilities from exercising their right to independence in opening financial credits and their own accounts, that is, to prevent any action that diminishes their legal capacity or undermines their dignity.
- Consulting with rights holders' organizations when formulating policies and procedures in this regard.

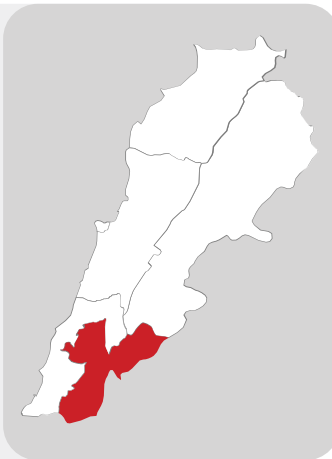
List of annexes

Annex (1): The first list of schools, in which it is proposed to lower the polling stations to the ground floors.

South III

Nabatieh

📍 Roumine	Roumine Intermediate Public School
📍 Kfar Fila	Kfar Fila Public School
📍 Zefta	Zefta Intermediate Public School
📍 Qaaqaiyet El Jisr	Marjy Hassan Haddad Intermediate Public School Qaaqaiyet El Jisr
📍 Braikeh	Braikeh Intermediate Public School
📍 Kfar Tebnit	



Bint Jbeil

📍 Kfar Dounine	Kfar Dounine Primary Public School
📍 Beit Lif	Marjy Moussa Basha Intermediate Public School Beit Lif
📍 Aitaroun	Marjy Saoud Marjoud Intermediate School
📍 Froun	Froun Intermediate Public School
📍 Kherbet Selim	Kherbet Selim Second Public School



Marjayoun Hasbaya

Chouya	Chouya Intermediate Public School
Jdeidet Marjay	Jdeidet Marjay Intermediate Public School
Blat	Blat Intermediate Public School
Khiam	Aj Hassoula Ajoudieh Intermediate School Khiam
Mari	Mari Mad Public School



South II

Zahrani

Zeita	Zeita Primary Public School
Maamriye	Joseph Harb Intermediate Public School (Maamriye)
Arkey	Arkey Intermediate Public School
Merouaniyeh	Merouaniyeh Mixed Intermediate Public School (English Branch)
Ansariyeh	Ansariyeh Intermediate Public School
Qaaqaaiyet	Qaaqaaiyet Snoubar Intermediate Public School
El Snoubar	El Snoubar Intermediate Public School
Tefahta	Tefahta Intermediate Public School



Tyre

Borj El Chmali	Borj El Chmali Intermediate Public School
Srifa	Srifa Intermediate Public School
Yanouh	Yanouh Public School
Jbal El Botm	Jbal El Botm Intermediate Public School
Hanaway	Hanaway Intermediate Public School
Yarine	Yarine Intermediate Public School
Naqoura	Naqoura Intermediate Public School



South I

Saida

Saida Hay	Martyr Maarouf Saad Intermediate School
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Jezzine

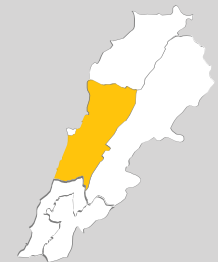
Mjaydel	Intermediate Public School
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Mount Lebanon I

Jbeil

Kfar Mashoun	Kfar Mashoun Mixed Intermediate Public School
Bchelli	Bchelli Mixed Intermediate Public School
Hsoun	Don Bosco Mixed Intermediate Public School



Keserwan

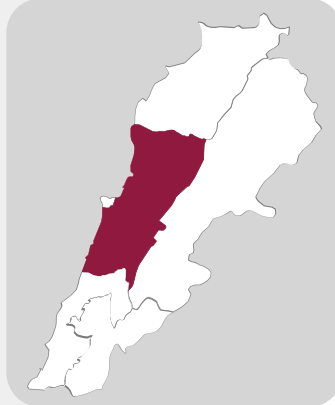
Safra	Mixed Intermediate Public School
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Mount Lebanon II

Metn

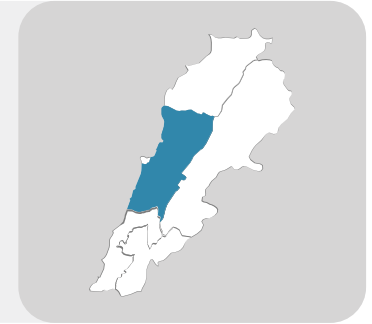
📍 Biaqout	Agios Athanasios Mixed Public School
📍 Jal El Dib	Jal El Dib Intermediate Public School for Boys
📍 Dekwaneh	Dekwaneh Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Mhaydseh	Mhaydseh Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Baskinta	Baskinta Public School



Mount Lebanon III

Baabda

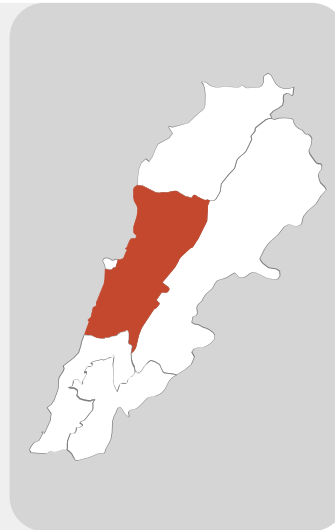
📍 Hadath	Hadath Mixed Elementary Public School
📍 Qrayeh	Qrayeh Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Borj El Brajne	Borj El Brajne P.M. Elementary Public School



Mount Lebanon IV

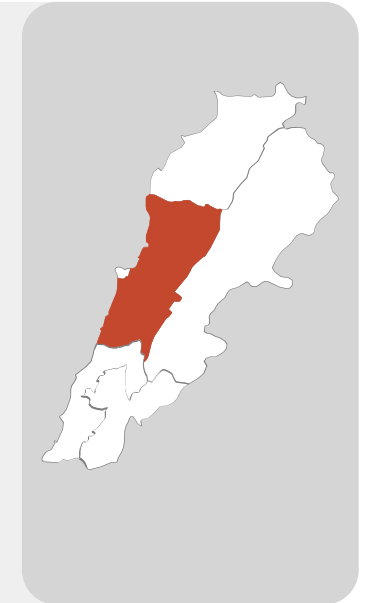
Aley

📍 Aramoun	Aramoun Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Chouaifet	Chouaifet Mixed Secondary Public School
📍 Qmariyeh	Qmariyeh Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Ainab	Ainab Mixed Public School
📍 Btater	Btater Mixed Public School
📍 Bedghane	Bedghane Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Bsatine	Bsatine Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Aaitat	Aaitat Mixed Public School



Chouf

📍 Naameh	Naameh Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Barja	Barja Secondary Public School
📍 Barja	Barja Intermediate Public School for Girls
📍 Baakline	Baakline Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Ain W Zain	Ain W Zain Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Barouk	Barouk Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Batloun	Batloun Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Mghairiye	Mghairiye Mixed Intermediate Public School
📍 Sibline	Sibline Mixed Intermediate Public School



North I

Akkar

📍 Telmeayan	Telmeayan Mixed Public School - Akkar
📍 Semmakiyeh	Semmakiyeh Mixed Public School
📍 Minyara	Minyara Public School for Girls
📍 Bqerzla	Bqerzla Mixed Public School
📍 Qarqaf	Qarqaf Mixed Public School
📍 Bzal	Bzal Mixed Public School
📍 Tleil	Tleil Mixed Public School
📍 Bire	Bire Mixed Public School
📍 Fnaidek	Fnaidek Public School for Boys
📍 Beit Ayoub	Beit Ayoub Mixed Public School
📍 Hrar	Hrar Mixed Public School
📍 Machta Hasar	Machta Hasar Mixed Public School
📍 Kafroun	Kafroun Public School
📍 Bani Sakher	Bani Sakher Primary Public School
📍 Bqaiaa	Bqaiaa Public School
📍 Wadi Khaled	Wadi Khaled Mixed Public School



North II

Tripoli

📍 Tripoli Swaika	Tripoli Swaika School for Girls
📍 Tripoli Hadid	Dahat Al Hadid School for Girls
📍 Tripoli Tabbane	Tabbaneh Mixed Kindergarten
📍 Tripoli Hadid	Al Tabbaneh School for Girls
📍 Tripoli Tabbane	Al Tabbaneh Mixed School
📍 Tripoli Qoubbe	Qoubbe Al Tabbaneh Intermediate School for Girls
📍 Tripoli Mina	Mina Al Tabbaneh School for Girls



Minieh - Danniyeh

📍 Deir Ammar	Deir Ammar Mixed Kindergarten
📍 Harf El Siyad	Harf El Siyad Mixed School
📍 Azki	Azki Mixed School
📍 Beit El Faqs	Beit El Faqs School
📍 Ain Al Tineh	Ain Al Tineh Mixed School
📍 Btormaz	Btormaz Mixed School
📍 Rihaniyyeh	Rihaniyyeh Mixed School - Danniyeh



North III

Zgharta

Sebhel

Rachid Eddis School Sebhel



Bcharre

Hasroun

Hasroun Mixed Public School



Koura

Amioun

Ayoun Mixed Public School

Bterram

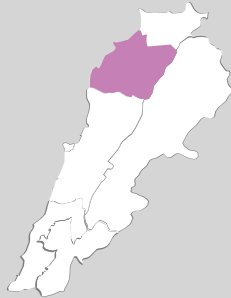
Maroun/Hadi Salem Public School

Bziza

Bziza Public School

Kefraya

Kefraya Mixed Public School



Batroun

Douma

Douma Mixed Public School

Chekka

Chekka Public School for Girls

Heri

Heri Mixed Public School

Ras Nhach

Ras Nhach Mixed Public School

Batroun

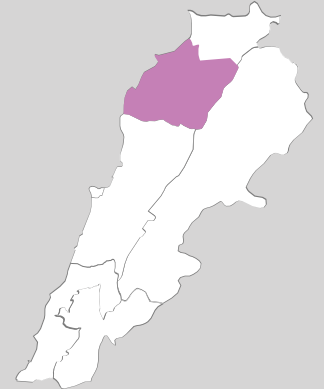
Salim Alah Mixed Intermediate Public School

Batroun

Batroun Secondary Public School

Boqsmayya

Boqsmayya Mixed Public School



Beirut II

Beirut

Bachoura

Bachoura First Mixed Public School

Bachoura

Ras Al Nabeh Second Mixed Public School

Ras Beirut

Prince Ghazi Ayoun Mixed Intermediate School (Formerly Verdun Public School)

Msaytbeh

Omar Fakhoury Mixed Primary Public School

Msaytbeh

Zahid Salem Mixed Secondary Public School

Msaytbeh

Edouard Madouna School

Mazraa

Omar Al Zaimy Mixed School



Bekaa II

West Bekaa

Haouch El Harimeh	Haouch El Harimeh Intermediate Public School
Marj	Marj Intermediate Public School
Baaloul	Baaloul Intermediate Public School
Qaraoun	Qaraoun Intermediate Public School
Sohmor	Sohmor First Public School
Yanta	Yanta Intermediate Public School
Kfar Qouq	Kfar Qouq Intermediate Public School



Bekaa III

Hermel

Qaa	Qaa Intermediate Public School
Yammoune	Yammoune Intermediate Public School
Bechwet	Bechwet Intermediate Public School
Iaat	Iaat Intermediate Public School
Haouch Tall Safyeh	Haouch Tall Safyeh Public School
Janta	Janta Public School
Kfar Dane	Kfar Dane Intermediate Public School
Hermel	Hermel Third Intermediate Public School
Hermel	Hermel Intermediate Public School
Hermel	Hermel Model Primary Public School



Bekaa I

Zahle

Wadi El Arayesh	Wadi El Arayesh Mixed Intermediate Public School
Maallaqa	Maallaqa Intermediate Public School for Girls
Maallaqa	Maallaqa Intermediate Public School for Boys
Qaa El Rim	Qaa El Rim Mixed Intermediate Public School
Saadnayel	Saadnayel Mixed Intermediate Public School
Ali El Nahri	Ali El Nahri Mixed Primary Public School
Kfar Zabad	Kfar Zabad Mixed Intermediate Public School
Ain Kfar Zabad	Ain Kfar Zabad Intermediate School
Terbol	Terbol Mixed Intermediate Public School
Bar Elias	Bar Elias Mixed Intermediate Public School
Bar Elias	Bar Elias Primary Public School
Qab Elias	Qab Elias Mixed Intermediate Public School
Qab Elias	Qab Elias Secondary Public School
Qab Elias	Qab Elias Primary Public School
Bouarej	Bouarej Mixed Intermediate Public School



Annex (2): Suggestions for lowering polling stations from the upper floors to the ground floor in the same approved polling center, based on lists from the Ministry of Education, supported by a field survey of all polling centers

Pursuant to Decree No. 2214 and based on the Minister of Interior's announcement to facilitate the process of voting for persons with disabilities, and within the framework of the "My Right" Campaign to claim the right of persons with disabilities to exercise their right and national duty through independent and dignified voting

Electoral District	District	Register	Proposed	Reason	Transfer	Available
South III	Bint Jbeil	Baraachit	Intermediate Public School	Elevator + toilet	instead	New School
		Kafra	Kafra Primary Public School	Elevator	instead	Secondary Public School
	Nabatieh	Nmairiyeh	Nmairiyeh Intermediate Public School	Ground floor	instead	Husseiniya
		Houmine El Faouqa	Intermediate Public School	Elevator + toilet	instead	Primary School
South II	Zahrani	Aabra	Aabra Mixed Intermediate Public School	Elevator	instead	Aabra Club
		Maghdouche	Maghdouche Intermediate Public School	Elevator + toilet	instead	Primary School
		Ghaziyeh	Ghaziyeh Intermediate Public School	Elevator + toilet	instead	Intermediate School
		Merouaniyeh	Mohamed Diab Hijazi Intermediate Public School Merouaniyeh	Elevator + toilet	instead	Middle School
		Najjarieh	Najjarieh Intermediate Public School	Elevator + toilet	instead	Public School
	Tyre	Qana	Qana Mixed Intermediate Public School	Elevator	instead	Secondary Public School
		Borj Rahhal	Borj Rahhal Mixed Intermediate Public School	Elevator	instead	Town Hall

		Tyre	Tyre Mixed Secondary Public School	Elevator + toilet	instead	Any approved obstructed center nearby
		Barich	Martyr Mounir Saad Public School	Elevator + toilet	instead	Public School
		Tyre	Al Masaken Ashaabiyah Public School	Elevator + toilet	instead	Any approved obstructed center nearby
Mount Lebanon I	Keserwan	Haret Sakher	Mixed Intermediate Public School	Ground floor	instead	Public School for Boys
		Ghadir	Educator Edouard Daou Public School (formerly Mixed Intermediate Public School)	Ground floor	instead	Georges Ephrem Secondary Public School
Mount Lebanon II	Metn	Beit Chabab	Beit Chabab Primary Public School	Ground floor	instead	Mar Antonios Monastery
Mount Lebanon IV	Aley	Aamroussieh	Aamroussieh Second Mixed Intermediate School	Elevator + toilet	instead	Town Hall
		Aley	Aley Mixed Intermediate Public School	Ground floor	instead	Determine the center closest to the school
		Kfar Matta	Kfar Matta Mixed Intermediate Public School	Ground floor	instead	Public hall or the hall of St. Elias Maronite Church
		Bhamdoun	Higher Bhamdoun Public School	Ground floor	instead	St. George's Greek Orthodox Church, in case the school was in Bhamdoun El Dayaa
	Chouf	Kfar Him	Kfar Him Intermediate Public School	Elevator	instead	Town Hall
		Barja	Barja Mixed Public School	Ground floor	instead	Locate the school in any neighborhood of the town near any of the approved centers
		Chhim	Group of Chhim Public Kindergartens School	Ground floor	instead	Locate the school in any neighborhood of the town near any of the approved centers
North I	Akkar	Beit Al Haj Koucha	Beit Al Haj Koucha Mixed Public School	Ground floor	instead	Town Hall
		Bebnine	Bebnine Public School for Boys	Ground floor	instead	Middle Public School for Girls

Bekaa II	West Bekaa	Ain Al Tineh	Ain Al Tineh Intermediate Public School	Elevator + toilet	instead	Make sure it's the only public school in town
		Manara	Manara First Intermediate Public School	Elevator + toilet	instead	Manara Secondary Public School
	Rashaya	Bkifa	Bkifa Intermediate Public School	Ground floor	instead	Cultural club or town hall
Bekaa III	Hermel	Nabi Osmane	Nabi Osmane Intermediate Public School	Elevator + toilet	instead	Available house near the house of Mr. Abbas Qassem Seif Al-Din

Annex (3): List of participants in “My Right” Campaign

Organizations cooperating in “My Right” Campaign	Shift, AND, DPNA
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Volunteers of the LUPD, BOT, LEB-CAAP, and Cooperating Organizations, participating in the observation and monitoring on Election Day.							
A	B-D	F-H	K-L	M	M-N	R	S-Y
Alaa Medlej Ali Al Laheeb Ali Ismail Ali Al Ahmad Ali Al Ali Ali Al-Qaraouni Ali Zeineddine Ali Taleb Ali Karim Ali Mahmoud Al-Ahmad Alia Al Ghazal Alia Azzam Abdul Basit Burhan Aya Al-Mani Abdel Nasser Ghazal Ahmed Atwi Alaa Aoun Asia Sulta	Basima Othman Baqir Al-Hujjah Batoul Qansoh Badr Al Akhras Baraa Muhammad Bassam Ibrahim Bashar Laqis Bashar Al-Masry Bashar Abdel Samad Bushra Ahmed Abboud Dalia El Badawy Dalal Solh Doha Didi	Fadi Al Sayegh Fatima Al-Zakra Fatima Al Ali Fatima Alwas Fatima Hablas Firas Hamiyeh Francis Abou Zeid Farah Sheikh Ali Fawaz Al Kayed Ghiwa Abdul Aziz Burhan Ghiwa Yazbek Houssam Abdallah Hassan Jomaa Hussein Al Hussein Hussein Al Sebsebi Hussein Jabr Hussein Ayyad Hussein Younes Hamza Hablas	Khaled Al-Sabbagh Khaled Zarzour Khaled Ghazal Khadija Kharroub Khoder Taleb Khalil Mtayrek Karma Timani Kristal Nasser Karima Saleh Kamal Sahyouni Lara Madani Al-Daftardar Liberia Faraj Lydia Cordis	Maria Jose Diab Maria Moussa Mariam Sarkis Yagyean Marianne Bazzi Malina Al Shami Maya Nakrot Maya Gharizi Michael Marta Majd Al Rifai Mohammed Al-Badawi Mohammed Al-Qattan Mohamed Baroud	Muhammad Sabe' Ayon Mohamed Saab Mohamed Araji Mohamed Kobrosli Maryam Ammar Mustafa Al Qassem Mustafa Harouki Makram Timani Manar Al Hashimi Maha Al Kurdi Michel Saliba	Raghida Hamiyeh Raghida Abbas Rami Laqis Ramy Farhat Rania Meselmani Rawya Seif El Din Raed Al-Dubaisi Razan Abu Zaid Rasha Blouq Reda Al-Mays Rifai Al Majzoub Rindala Mikhael	Sarah Nafeh Sarah Rhouli Sally Bahmad Sahar Najem Said Oweidat Salim Chokr Suleiman Douaihy Samar Toufaily Sohail Haddad Sohail Ghanawi Susan Saber Sonia Lakis Silvana Lakis Shady Faraj Shadia Muhammad Shaza Youssef Shafiqa Al-Biqali

Alaa Al Ozon Anwar Abbas Anwar Mrouweh Aya Al-Mani Anwar Mrouweh	Doha Khodr Doha Kanjo Diaaddin Muhammed	Hamza Chebli Haneen Al Shamali Haidar Kourani		Mohammed Bayram Mohammed Khaled Mohamed Zaidan	Melanie El Khoury Makram Timani Nadine Bou Hamdan Nada Al-Uzair Nisreen Madi Nisreen Mohammed Neemeh Harajli Nagham Charaf Noha Al- Othman Nour Jammoul Nour Kanjo Nicolas Yaziji	Rola Hamiyeh Raya Lahoud Ryan Sheikh Reem Khattar Rim Misto Raymond Boutros	Shamma Al- Ghandour Saliha Qaddour Sobhia Amer Tarim Jabr Tahani Al Ejl Wael Al Hindi Wael Hammoud Wadih Haddad Wifak Blaiq Yahya Yahya Yaacoub Al Ahmad Yara Al-Ayas Yara Karam
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