

Israel

#12 Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030)

Israel embraces the Director-General's report on Women's, Children's, and Adolescent's Health, as a constructive development in resolving important health issues. Ensuring healthy living among these populations is crucial for global health. It is also particularly important in Israel, where children and adolescents make up one third of its population.

Israel's National Health Insurance covers acute and chronic care. Childbirth and newborn hospitalization is free of expense to all citizens. Family Clinics track the development of all children, using standardized development screening until aged 6. They also provide preventative paediatric healthcare, including immunizations, growth and development monitoring. Parental education and support is provided free of charge to all. Work is underway to update school health services to better address the needs of adolescents.

Maternal mortality in Israel is low, at 3 per 100,000. Israel's infant mortality has fallen significantly, standing at 2.3 per 1,000 in 2020, as compared to 3.8 and 5.5, just 10 and 20 years before that, respectively. Neonatal mortality rates have also decreased dramatically, as have those for children under 5.

The report correctly addresses important health concerns, including anemia, HIV, and mental health, as well as matters pertaining to inequalities, violence, and sexual violence.

Additional important matters could be more thoroughly addressed, including the long-term impact of COVID-19 symptoms. Severe fatigue, onset by COVID-19, is a serious issue for women who tend to have obligations both in the workplace and at home. Further, the cognitive effects of COVID-19 can have major impact on schooling for children. Similarly, WHO should be more explicit on the requirement for adequate funding to achieve its goals on breastfeeding.

I look forward to working together to advance children's, adolescent's, and women's health.