

Post-Decriminalisation Implementation Checklist

Decriminalisation is just the beginning! Legislative reform must be swiftly followed by decisive, cross-sectoral actions that prioritise mental health care, support, and suicide prevention.

Here's a checklist of key actions various stakeholders can implement to make this a reality

Ministry of Justice

Identify and repeal secondary legislation and policies that still reinforce criminalisation or discrimination, such as laws governing administration of wills, inheritance, life insurance, and healthcare access.

Train the judiciary, lawyers, legal practitioners, and court staff on human rights and mental health, with an emphasis on rights-based legal reforms

Ministry of Health

Formally notify all public and private healthcare facilities that self-harm reporting to law enforcement is no longer mandatory and strengthen reporting of suicide and suicide attempts within national health information systems.

Establish a comprehensive national suicide prevention plan outlining referral pathways, ground-level action steps, and key interventions aligned with the [WHO LIVE LIFE](#).

Ministry of Agriculture

Ban Highly Hazardous Pesticides and replace them with safer agricultural alternatives. Sensitise local farmers and agricultural workers to the use of safer alternatives.

Civil Society Organisations / Community based organisations

Help with tracking government progress across sectors and advocating for identified gaps to be filled in post-decriminalisation implementation.

Educate communities on the change in law so people know they can seek crisis support without fear of legal consequences.

Ministry of Police

Issue immediate national police directives explicitly instructing officers to cease all arrests and detentions for attempted suicide.

Set up clear protocols to transport individuals in crisis directly to healthcare or social support services instead of police holding cells.

Ministry of Education

Equip teachers, counsellors, administrators, and peer leaders to recognise early warning signs of distress.

Introduce age-appropriate social and emotional learning (SEL) training into school curricula.

Ministry of Information & Media

Where available, add information on mental health support services (e.g. hotlines) to the end of relevant news articles.

Facilitate regular capacity-building training on the responsible reporting of suicide amongst media professionals.

Partner with civil society to launch national myth-busting campaigns around help-seeking and suicide prevention.

Religious Leaders

Publicly speak out against stigma, emphasising that decriminalisation does not increase suicide, but rather enables people in crisis to safely seek help without fear.

Conduct dignified funeral rites and deliver compassionate grief support to bereaved families.



Additional Resources:

[WHO policy brief on the health aspects of decriminalization of suicide and suicide attempts \(2024\)](#)
[WHO LIVE LIFE Implementation Guide & Resources](#)
[WHO Developing a Surveillance System for Suicide Attempt and Self-Harm](#)
[National suicide prevention strategies: progress, examples and indicators](#)
[Guidance on policy and strategic actions to protect and promote mental health and well-being across government sectors](#)
[International code of conduct on pesticide management: guidance on use of pesticide regulation to prevent suicide](#)
[Towards Care, Not Punishment – How to Advocate for Suicide Decriminalisation: A practical guide](#)
[Decriminalising Suicide: Saving Lives, Reducing Stigma](#)

Some Indicators for Success:

Development of a national suicide prevention plan
Percentage of prevention plan targets met on time
Number of laws reviewed and updated to protect mental health rights
Number of police officers trained in crisis de-escalation and diversion
Number of schools trained to spot early warning signs
Number of highly hazardous pesticides officially banned or restricted
Creation of a national tracking system for self-harm and suicide cases