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## A3 Policy Checklist User Guide

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## A3 Policy Checklist User Guide

56 POLICIES, 113 COUNTRIES, 1 CHECKLIST

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

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

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

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

### HOW TO USE THE A3 POLICY CHECKLIST

- Begin by selecting a thematic domain under “Domain” and a geographic region under “Select a region” (Figure 1)

The screenshot shows the Adolescent Atlas for Action website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo and menu items: DATA + ANALYTICS, RESOURCES, A3 INSIGHTS, ABOUT, and CONTACT. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Data + Analytics. A red box highlights a dropdown menu labeled 'DOMAIN' with the selected option 'GENDER NORMS AND AGENCY'. To the right of this menu, there are navigation links: GIRLS DASHBOARD, BOYS DASHBOARD, and POLICY CHECKLIST. Below the domain selection, there is a green header section with the text 'DOMAIN Gender norms and agency' and a sub-header 'Gender norms and agency include indicators regarding attitudes about gender and household dynamics around gender roles.' Below this, there is a paragraph of text: 'This dashboard is a curated list of national policies relevant to adolescents under the 9 thematic domains and whether countries have enacted each policy. Adolescent-focused policies demonstrate commitment to achieving adolescent wellbeing and are often the first step in promoting change.' A red box highlights a dropdown menu labeled 'Select a region:' with the selected option 'All regions'.

Figure 1 Selecting a domain and region

- Once a “domain” and “region” are selected, the checklist will populate with a list of domain-specific policies (Figure 2).

	Cambodia	Indonesia	Kiribati	Lao People's Democr	Malaysia	Mon
Abortion is legally available to adolescents without parental consent.	✓	×	?	?	×	×
Abortion is legal without spousal consent.	×	✓	?	?	✓	✓
Female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C) is illegal to perform on any w...	×	×	?	?	×	?
Men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓
Sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents.	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓
Female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets.	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓
Marital rape is illegal.	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓
Adolescents can seek contraception without parental consent.	?	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adolescents can seek contraception without spousal consent.	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sterilization is legal for contraceptive purposes.	×	×	×	×	×	×
Adolescents can receive STI testing without parental consent.	?	✓	?	✓	✓	✓
Adolescents can receive STI testing without spousal consent.	?	✓	?	×	✓	✓
Adolescents can receive HIV testing without parental consent.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adolescents can receive HIV testing without spousal consent.	?	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
There are no policies criminalizing consensual same-sex relations.	✓	✓	×	×	×	×

Figure 2 List of policies under the domain of “Gender Norms and Agency” for the “East Asia & Pacific” region.

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

<div style="background-color: #28a745; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px; display: inline-block;">Policy is present</div>	<div style="background-color: #6c757d; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px; display: inline-block;">Policy is not present</div>	<div style="background-color: #d6d8db; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px; display: inline-block;">No data available</div>
<div style="background-color: #28a745; color: white; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">✓</div>	<div style="background-color: #6c757d; color: white; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">×</div>	<div style="background-color: #d6d8db; color: white; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">?</div>

- Choose a policy, navigate to a country of interest and hover over the corresponding square (Figure 3). A dialogue box will appear with the country name, the policy of interest, and the corresponding policy status as noted above.



Figure 3 Cambodia has a policy confirming that sterilization is legal for contraceptive purposes.

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

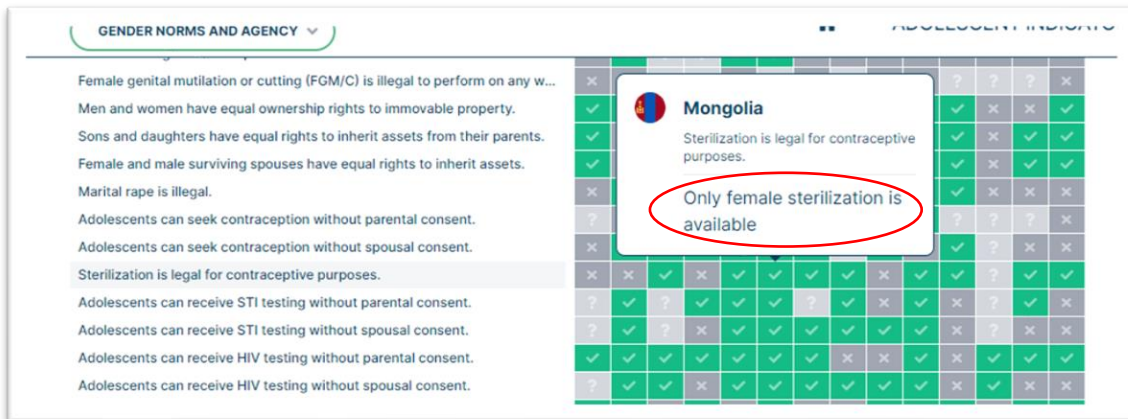


Figure 4 Mongolia has a policy confirming that sterilization is legal for contraceptive purpose—however, only female sterilization is available.

- Click the square for more information about the policy’s applicability to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), relevance to adolescent health and development, and hyperlinked references (Figure 5).

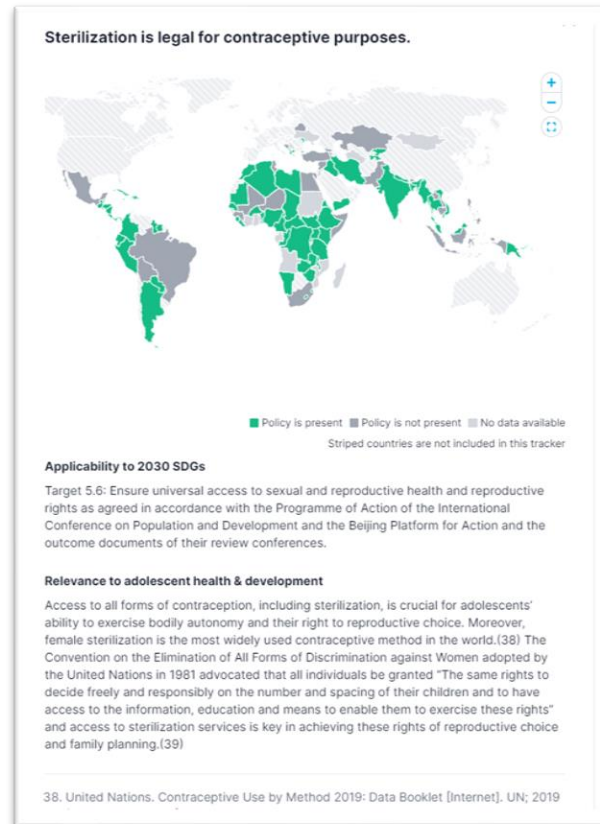


Figure 5 Details about the policy's applicability to the 2030 SDGs, relevance to adolescent health and development, and hyperlinked references

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

“1”	“n/a”	Cells that are blank	Cells that contain notes												
Policy is present according to the database cited	Policy was not mentioned in the major databases used; an Internet search was conducted and no official documentation of the policy could be confirmed	Policy was not recorded in the country	Policy was present according to the database and/or conducted Internet searches, but there are important exceptions written into the policy												
<p>“Abortion is legal in cases of rape.”</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lesotho</td> <td>Source</td> <td>Year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td><a href="https://rep">https://rep</a></td> <td>2019</td> </tr> </table>	Lesotho	Source	Year	1	<a href="https://rep">https://rep</a>	2019	<p>“Female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C) is illegal to perform on any woman or girl.”</p>	<p>“Abortion is legal in cases of rape.”</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Madagascar</td> <td>Source</td> <td>Year</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><a href="https://rep">https://rep</a></td> <td>2019</td> </tr> </table>	Madagascar	Source	Year		<a href="https://rep">https://rep</a>	2019	<p>“There is a policy on protections based on forms of gender identity and gender expression.”</p>
Lesotho	Source	Year													
1	<a href="https://rep">https://rep</a>	2019													
Madagascar	Source	Year													
	<a href="https://rep">https://rep</a>	2019													

<p>In Lesotho, there is policy supporting that abortion is legal in cases of rape.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Lebanon</th> <th>Source</th> <th>Year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>n/a</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In Lebanon, it is unclear if there is or is not an official policy that makes FGM/C illegal. This may be because FGM/C is not a practice common in Lebanon, and thus the policy indicator is not particularly relevant.</p>	Lebanon	Source	Year	n/a			<p>In Madagascar, there is no policy supporting that abortion is legal in cases of rape.</p>	<p>India h: <a href="http://socialjustice.nic">http://socialjustice.nic</a>2018</p> <p>In India, there is technically a policy on protections based on forms of gender identity and gender expression, but their definition of “transgender” may exclude a large part of the population</p>
Lebanon	Source	Year							
n/a									
<p>Coding in downloadable spreadsheet: 1</p>	<p>Coding in downloadable spreadsheet: n/a</p>	<p>Coding in downloadable spreadsheet: blank cell</p>	<p>Coding in downloadable spreadsheet: cell will be populated with notes</p>						

For any additional inquiries, please contact us at [a3@popcouncil.org](mailto:a3@popcouncil.org)

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