

For Immediate Release



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Ministry of Public Health joins efforts with UNICEF, AUB and salt industry to protect children from Iodine deficiency: Launch of Salt Iodization Project in Lebanon

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in collaboration with The American University of Beirut (AUB) and UN's Children's Fund (UNICEF), inaugurated today a project to improve the consumption of iodized salt in Lebanon.

The project is the result of a diverse partnership bringing together Ministry of Public Health, the AUB, UNICEF, the Iodine Global Network (IGN), Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Economy and Trade and owners of salt industries in Lebanon.

Through this project UNICEF will provide MoPH with 6 metric tons of potassium iodate needed for the salt iodization for a period of one year and with support from AUB and IGN will be providing the technical assistance to MoPH and Ministry of Industry to accurately monitor iodization levels in salt.

A survey by the AUB in 2014 revealed that around 75% of Lebanese elementary school children have mild iodine deficiency. Iodine deficiency is the one of the leading causes of preventable brain damage and learning disability in children due to its invisible impact on brain development, reducing intellectual capacity of children at school and during working life when they grow up.

ENDS

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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