



2025- 2026

GEP DEEP DIVES

EDUCATION

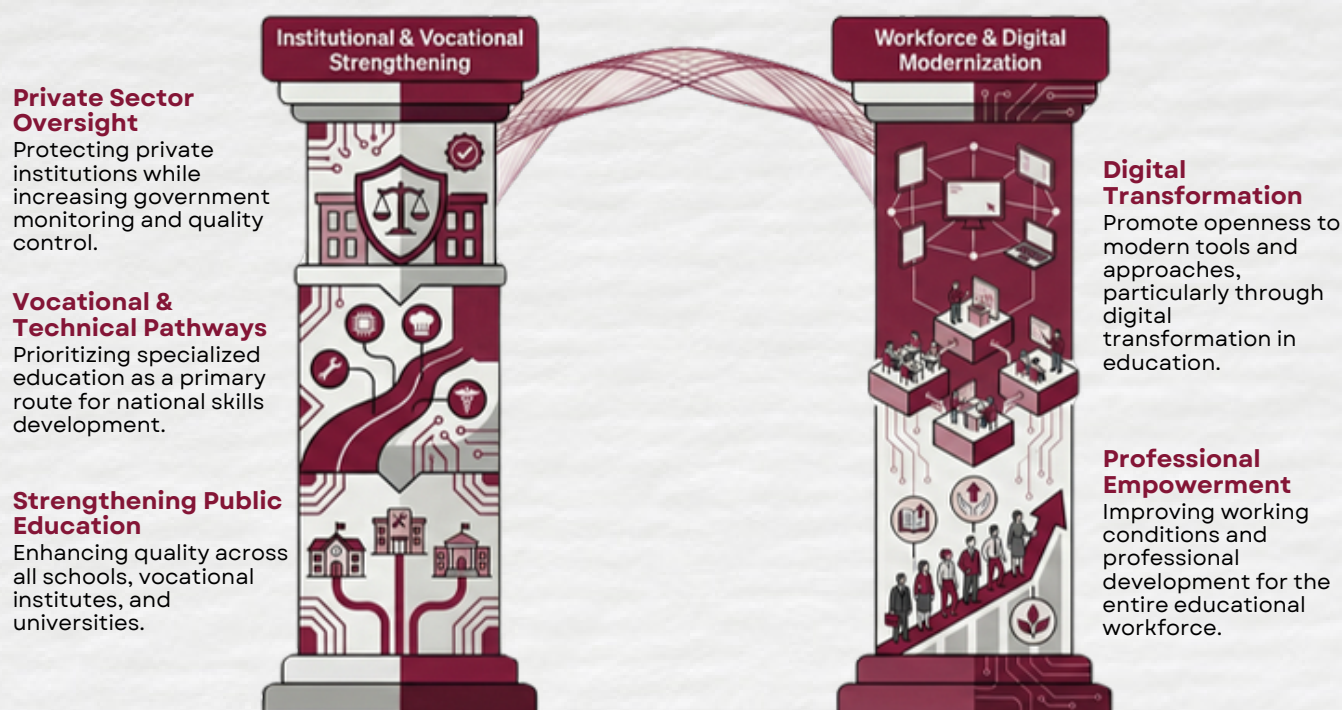


**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**



I. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT PROMISES

The following commitments were made by the Lebanese government in its ministerial statement, forming the baseline against which actual progress is assessed across the Education sector.



II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE



1. Public School Infrastructure

- Successfully mobilizing national resources for the **2025/2026 school year**, securing the allocation of funds for school operations a move toward sustainable domestic financing.
- Disbursing funds in USD directly to **1,074 public schools**, enabling them to cover basic operational costs and benefiting all children enrolled regardless of nationality.
- **Rehabilitating** 110 public schools and solarizing 272 public schools to reduce reliance on costly fuel and ensure access to reliable energy, in addition to **constructing** 4 new public schools equipped with solar energy systems.
- Concluding, **in collaboration with JICA and UNOPS**, a series of workshops on the School Improvement Plan (SIP) grant disbursement mechanism enhance school principals' skills in educational leadership and evaluation standards, supported by a \$1.2 million JICA-funded grant.
- Adopting **operational adaptation measures**, including a restructured four-day school week, to optimize resource utilization while ensuring continuity of **public education services**.

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE (CONT'D)



2. Curriculum Reform & Digital Innovation

- Launching the **Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund (TLIF)** in October 2025, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNICEF, empowering 34 public schools to design school-led innovative solutions across literacy, wellbeing, digital learning, and STEAM education.
- Advancing a **comprehensive curriculum reform** integrating digital competencies, critical thinking, and emerging technologies, aligning education outcomes with labor market needs.
- Adopting a **National Strategy for Digital Transformation**, positioning digital tools and data systems as central to education quality and resilience, with technology-based learning programs in AI, programming, and robotics introduced in public and private schools.
- Launching the **National Greening Education Strategy**, embedding environmental sustainability and climate awareness into curricula and school practices in line with global education transformation commitments.
- **Launching "Madrستي,"** a free digital learning platform offering blended and remote learning fully aligned with the Lebanese national curriculum.
- Officially launching **"The School of Citizenship,"** a national initiative to instill values of peace, human rights, and sustainable development, making Lebanon the first Arab country to bring the 2023 UNESCO Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development into practice at the school level, led in collaboration with CERD, AUB, civil society, and UNESCO.

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE (CONT'D)



3. Education Reform & Governance

- Convening regular **Higher Education Council** meetings focused on enhancing quality, governance, and equal access, alongside strengthening governance mechanisms through the Local Education Group to align authorities, UN agencies, donors, and partners around equity, evidence-based reform, and sustainability.
- **Convening a specialized seminar in partnership with UNESCO to present five reform projects**, covering the establishment of a National Higher Education Quality Assurance Authority, teacher qualification standards, and a new law to professionalize the teaching profession.
- Integrating **anti-corruption and integrity principles** into curriculum discussions, reflecting the government's broader governance reform priorities.
- Engaging with the **private education sector**, including meeting with al-**Maqassed Association to discuss overdue payments** to semi-free schools and the need for inclusive participation in ministry workshops, while reinforcing oversight mechanisms to address rising tuition fees and transparency disputes.
- **Announcing a national vision** to transition from crisis management to a sustainable unified education system starting April 2026, addressing learning gaps through a blended approach combining in-person, remote, and print-based learning.
- Implementing **national education recovery frameworks**, including targeted planning tools and interventions aimed at addressing learning loss and strengthening system resilience.
- **Launching nationwide diagnostic assessments in public schools covering over 130,000 students**, generating critical data to evaluate student academic levels, identifying learning gaps, and guide evidence-based interventions for subsequent academic years.
- Developing the **National Inclusive Education Policy for Children with Disabilities**, along with a costed Action Plan and Operational Handbook for schools, and scaling up inclusive education programs across 110 public schools.

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE (CONT'D)



4. Capacity Building & Professional Development

- Securing temporary **financial compensation for all education personnel through Decree No. 189**, applied retroactively to both permanent and contractual teachers, helping alleviate long-standing financial pressures, with a formal commitment to dialogue with unions and the Ministry of Finance toward restoring a fair and sustainable salary scale.
- Convening the second **High-Level Strategic Management Board meeting of the Transition and Resilience Education Fund (TREF)** in September 2025, reaffirming Lebanon's commitment to education reform in partnership with the EU, UNICEF, Germany, France, Switzerland, the UK, and other donors.
- The **Parliamentary Administration and Justice Committee** approving a proposal to increase compensation for public school principals in response to deteriorating economic conditions.
- Organizing, in partnership with the **Hariri Foundation and the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO)**, a training course for administrative and educational staff of 12 public schools across various Lebanese governorates nominated to implement the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP).
- Initiating bilateral educational cooperation with Qatar, including discussions with the Qatari minister and the **Qatar Fund for Development** on a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen educational ties.

III. AREAS WHERE EFFORTS CONTINUE TO EVOLVE - AGENDA IN PROGRESS

1 Education

1 TEACHER COMPENSATION & WORKFORCE STABILITY



Comprehensive & inflation-responsive salary framework **YET TO BE ESTABLISHED**

Public schools remain **UNDER-RESOURCED**

Risks to system stability and teacher retention **CONTINUE TO GROW**

2 PRIVATE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT



Strengthening arbitration and transparency efforts **STILL ONGOING**

Unjustified tuition fee increases remain **UNRESOLVED CONCERNS**

LIMITED enforcement capacity of oversight bodies

3 DIGITAL EDUCATION & REGIONAL EQUITY



Digital education reform frameworks **ARTICULATED**

Success depends on **CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION** & school infrastructure readiness

Need to **CLOSE THE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS GAP** between urban and peripheral regions

4 VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL EDUCATION PERCEPTION



Many families view as a **SECONDARY OPTION**, not a primary career path



Awareness and rebranding **NOT YET** produced meaningful perception shift

5 CURRICULUM RELEVANCE



National curriculum **NOT YET FULLY UPDATED** to reflect labor market needs & modern society



REFORMS IN PROGRESS

STRONGER ALIGNMENT between learning and economic requirements needed

6 LEBANESE UNIVERSITY



Key pillar of accessible higher education, holds **SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL**

Faces **CRITICAL RESOURCE SHORTFALLS**



GREATER INVESTMENT in faculty, infrastructure, & academic programs still needed

IV. OVERALL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Commitment	Status	Note
Improve the quality of education and strengthen its role in social integration		Diagnostic assessments and recovery frameworks launched; measurable learning improvements still require sustained financing.
Strengthen official education, particularly the Lebanese University		Governance mechanisms strengthened; Lebanese University remains critically under-resourced.
Expand and upgrade vocational and technical education as a distinct and valued pathway — separate from academic tracks		EdTech programs hosted; dedicated vocational reform remains early-stage and public perception has not meaningfully shifted.
Protect private education and reinforce State oversight of private schools and universities		Stakeholder engagement initiated; tuition fee violations and weak arbitration enforcement remain unresolved.
Empower educational bodies, improve working conditions, and go beyond addressing immediate challenges		Temporary compensation secured through Decree No. 189; a comprehensive inflation-responsive salary framework is still absent.
Orient Lebanon toward a pioneering role in school and university education for its citizens and the region		Lebanon first Arab country to implement UNESCO's 2023 Education for Peace Recommendation; IB Programme introduced in 12 public schools.
Embrace digital transformation in knowledge production and dissemination		Digital strategy adopted and Madristi platform launched; consistent implementation and regional technology equity remain ongoing challenges.



Note: RED - early ; YELLOW – moderate; GREEN – advanced



**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**



Government Engagement Platform (GEP)

College Hall - 4th Floor – GEP Office 427
American University of Beirut
Riad El Solh, Beirut 1107 2020
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: +961 1 350000 ext. 3585 - 3597
gep@aub.edu.lb
www.aub.edu.lb/gep

