



2025- 2026

GEP DEEP DIVES

HEALTH

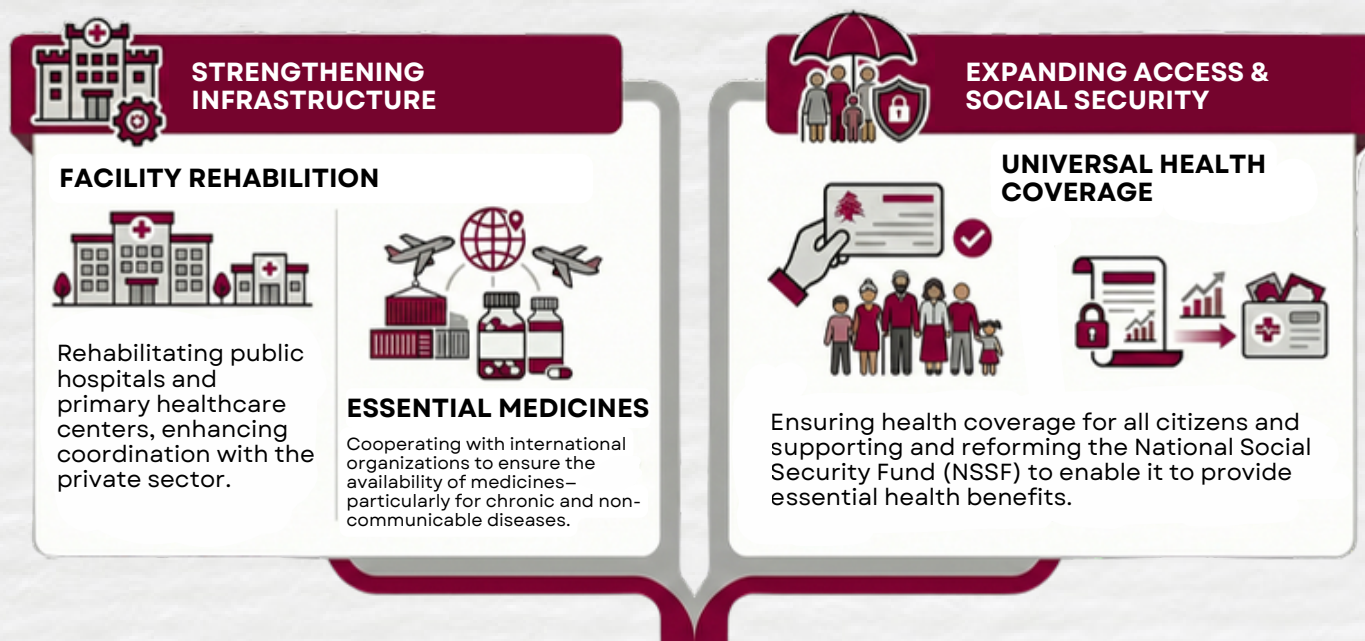


**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**



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 health sector.



II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE



1. Health System Strengthening

- Launch of the **National Central Public Health Laboratory renovation (EUR 10 million, EU-funded)**, restoring Lebanon's reference laboratory with capacity to conduct up to 4,500 diagnostic tests annually and significantly strengthening disease surveillance and biosafety.
- Inauguration of the first **infectious medical waste treatment center at Karantina Government Hospital** (USD 2.7 million, EU-funded), improving hospital safety and environmental health management.
- **Direct government intervention** to support public hospitals, including financial assistance and equipment restoration at Rafik Hariri Governmental Hospital.
- Inclusion of **primary healthcare centers (PHCs)** in the 2026 financial support system, alongside plans to equip them with medical devices.
- Strengthening emergency health response through support programs for war-wounded and vulnerable groups, **active outbreak monitoring and enhanced coordination with the military**, universities, and civil society, despite ongoing risks from reduced international support.

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



2. Universal Health Coverage

- Expansion of healthcare coverage for high-cost treatments, including hip prostheses, pelvic fracture surgeries, and cardiac procedures, with increased reimbursement rates of up to **80% in public hospitals and 65% in private hospitals, improving financial protection for patients.**
- Legislative progress toward expanding **NSSF coverage to vulnerable groups (agricultural workers, retired mukhtars, doctors) and reducing out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures.**
- Plans were introduced to **reactivate chronic medication programs** and strengthen primary healthcare through equipment investments and financial support.
- Progress on the **Universal Health Coverage Law**, continued through ongoing technical and policy work on governance, financing, and benefit package design, positioning the reform as a medium-term structural priority.
- Launch of a **USD 18 million pharmaceutical tender** to reactivate the chronic medication program.



3. Public Health

- Relaunch of nationwide school medical screenings and vaccination campaigns after disruption during the crisis.
- Introduction of the **first national scoliosis early detection program**, including a structured national screening and referral pathway across schools.
- Launch of a **National Lung Cancer Awareness Campaign**, aligned with the national cancer control strategy and supported by stricter enforcement of anti-smoking law (Law 174).
- Preventive healthcare became a central pillar through nationwide vaccination campaigns, school health screenings, and nutrition policies.
- Awareness campaigns addressed smoking, lung cancer, and broader health risks, with stricter enforcement of tobacco control policies.

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

- Implementation of the **“AaSalameh” program**, which significantly strengthened maternal and child health outcomes by delivering over **25,000 vaccinations**, providing antenatal care to pregnant women, supporting newborns postnatally, and conducting more than 114,000 household visits, alongside the integration of diabetes care into primary healthcare services to enhance early detection and long-term disease management.
- Launch of the upgraded **MOPH mobile application**, integrated with the **MediTrack system**, enabling citizens to verify drug authenticity through barcode scanning, access real-time health information, and improve transparency while combating counterfeit medicines.



4. Health System Reform

- Restoration of **Lebanon's voting rights at the World Health Organization (WHO)**, marking renewed international institutional engagement.
- Adoption of stricter legal measures to **protect healthcare workers**, including increased penalties for assaults.
- Advancement of key health sector reforms through parliamentary committees, including the **introduction of retirement and benefit schemes for contracted doctors and pharmacists**, the development of a **code of ethics for the nursing profession**, and **amendments to public procurement laws to prioritize locally manufactured medicines**.
- Ongoing work on establishing a **National Drug Agency** and implementing a National Cancer Plan.
- Launch of a **National Evaluation System** initiative to institutionalize evidence-based policymaking and improve public sector accountability.

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

1 Health

Health System Strengthening

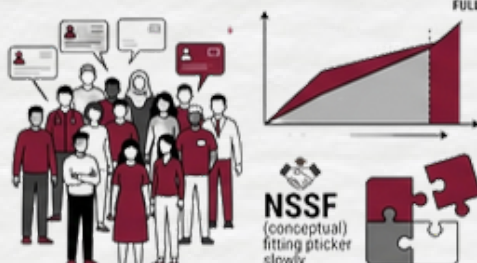
Structural financing challenges in public hospitals persist, and regional disparities in service quality continue to affect access and health outcomes across the country, particularly in underserved and peripheral areas.



Universal Health Coverage

Nationwide operational coverage has not yet been achieved; sustained coordination, adequate financing, and policy follow-through are still required to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all Lebanese regardless of region or income level.

NSSF reform remains ongoing, with coverage expansion and reduction of out-of-pocket costs still to be fully realized; current coverage levels remain well below pre-crisis standards, leaving a significant portion of the population without adequate financial protection.



Public Health

The regulatory framework governing private hospitals and healthcare providers remain weak, with limited price transparency, inconsistent quality standards, and insufficient patient protection mechanisms still to be addressed.



IV. OVERALL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Commitment	Status	Note
Rehabilitate and upgrade public hospitals		Direct financial assistance and equipment restoration provided to public hospitals including Rafik Hariri Governmental Hospital; structural financing challenges and regional disparities persist
Improve and expand primary healthcare centers		PHCs included in 2026 financial support system with plans to equip with medical devices; full operational expansion still underway
Renovate and strengthen health laboratory infrastructure		National Central Public Health Laboratory launched (€10M, EU-funded) with capacity for 4,500 diagnostic tests annually; first infectious medical waste treatment center inaugurated at Karantina Hospital
Work toward universal health coverage for all citizens		Progress on UHC Law including governance structure, financing mechanisms, and essential benefits package; nationwide operational coverage not yet achieved
Expand coverage for high-cost treatments		Reimbursement rates increased up to 80% in public hospitals for hip prostheses, cardiac procedures, and pelvic fracture surgeries
Ensure availability of medicines for chronic and serious diseases		\$18M pharmaceutical tender launched to reactivate chronic medication program; permanent sustainable supply plan still absent
Strengthen preventive health and vaccination programs		Nationwide vaccination campaigns and school medical screenings relaunched; first national scoliosis detection program introduced; declining coverage in some areas remains a concern



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

IV. OVERALL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY (CONT'D)

Commitment	Status	Note
Address non-communicable diseases and cancer		National Lung Cancer Awareness Campaign launched; National Cancer Plan under development; stricter enforcement of anti-smoking Law 174
Strengthen maternal and child health		"AaSalameh" program delivered 25,000+ vaccinations, 114,000+ household visits, antenatal care, and postnatal support; diabetes care integrated into primary healthcare
Reform and expand NSSF coverage		Legislative progress on expanding NSSF to agricultural workers, retired mukhtars, and doctors; out-of-pocket costs remain high and coverage below pre-crisis levels
Strengthen health sector governance and accountability		Lebanon's WHO voting rights restored; National Evaluation System launched; National Drug Agency establishment ongoing
Protect healthcare workers and improve regulatory framework		Stricter legal protections for healthcare workers adopted; regulatory framework for private hospitals and price transparency still weak
Advance health sector legislation		Retirement schemes for contracted doctors and pharmacists advanced; nursing code of ethics developed; procurement law amendments to prioritize local medicines introduced



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