



WHO Representative in Lebanon Dr Abdinasir Abubakar accompanied by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Lebanon Mr Martin Yttervik conduct visit to the Minister of Public Health Dr Firas Abiad

22 January 2022 – WHO Representative in Lebanon Dr Abdinasir Abubakar accompanied by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Lebanon Mr Martin Yttervik, carried out a field visit to the National Influenza Centre and future Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) located at the Rafic Hariri University Hospital on 18 January 2023 to check the current situation of the building that will host the CPHL for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases in Lebanon. Mr Martin and Dr Abdinasir later paid a courtesy visit to Dr Firas Abiad, the Minister of Public Health, from his office to further discuss Norway's commitment to supporting the re-establishment of CPHL, and overall prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases in the country.

The Ministry of Public Health has identified the re-establishment of the CPHL's functions as one of its priorities to advance national health security, and contribute to the overall capacity for epidemic preparedness and response capacity. The Minister has continued to advocate for the importance of re-establishing and operationalizing the CPHL in order to meet the requirements of the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).

