



Front row: Dr Jaouad Mahjour, acting WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, Mr Ghassan Hasbani, H.E. the Minister of Public Health, Dr Fadlo Khuri, President, American University of Beirut. Back row: Dr Gabriele Riedner, WHO Representative, Dr Walid Ammar, Director-General of Health, Professor Iman Nuwayhid, Dean Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut. 22 April 2018 – On 16 April 2018, the launch of the Policy Support Observatory took place in the Ministry of Public Health of Lebanon. The Observatory is based in the Ministry of Public Health and supported through a tripartite agreement between the Ministry of Public Health, WHO and the American University of Beirut. The first of its kind in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, it aims at promoting innovation in the health sector, strengthening governance, and facilitating the adoption of benchmark practices. It shall provide evidence for health policy formulation and serve as a platform to foster the cooperation of academic institutions and reinforce the collaboration mechanisms of the various stakeholders in health.

“Countries must build a consensus not only on the scope of services to be covered, but also how they are financed, managed, and delivered. This requires strong stewardship, cooperation between health stakeholders, and alignment with national health policies,” said Dr Tedros, Director General of WHO, on the occasion of the launch of the Policy Support Observatory.

“Today I would like to add a unique achievement – the Health Policy Support Observatory – which will provide the various levels of the Ministry with the scientific data to make appropriate decisions and support the evaluation of the implementation and rehabilitation of health policies and programs and ensure their continuity”. This Observatory will also facilitate communication with all partners in the health sector and with citizens to activate and ensure the continuity of cooperation governance through a forum chaired by the Ministry of Public Health and includes all the active actors in the health sector,” concluded H.E. the Minister of Public Health Dr Ghassan Hasbani.

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