

PHC IN ACTION

Official Newsletter of the Primary Health Care
Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Lebanon

AA SALAMEH AWARD CEREMONY RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

On May 29, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in collaboration with UNICEF and with the presence of EU representatives, held the Aa Salameh Award Ceremony to recognize outstanding contributions to the Aa Salameh program — a vital initiative aimed at improving access to quality primary healthcare services for vulnerable communities across Lebanon.

Launched in 2024, the Aa Salameh program has already delivered a wide-reaching impact. To date, it has provided over 147,000 community health services, more than 44,550 maternal services, and enabled the full vaccination of 31,679 children across the country. These achievements underscore the program's commitment to strengthening essential healthcare delivery — particularly in the areas of reproductive health, immunization, nutrition, and chronic disease care.

The award ceremony honored the top three Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCCs) in each governorate, along with five nurses, five midwives, and five community health workers (CHWs) for their exceptional service and dedication. These individuals and facilities were recognized for going above and beyond in reaching communities and delivering high-quality care under often challenging conditions.

Set to continue until December 2025, the Aa Salameh initiative not only reinforces the critical role of PHCCs but also demonstrates the power of collaboration in responding to the healthcare needs of Lebanon's most vulnerable. As the program evolves, its growing impact is a testament to the resilience and dedication of Lebanon's frontline health workforce.



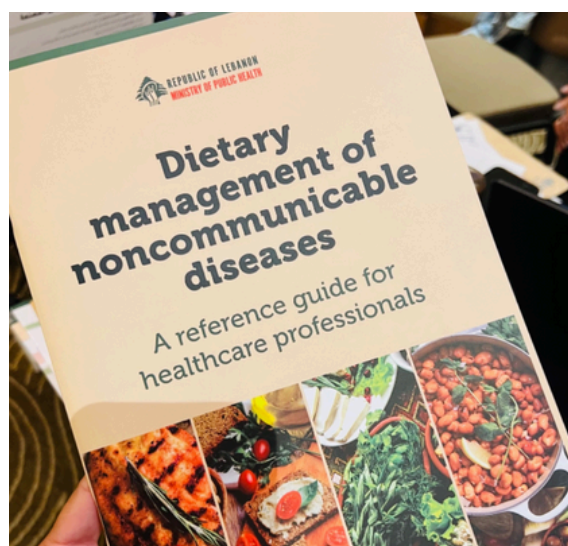
BUILDING CAPACITY ACROSS THE PHC NETWORK: TARGETED TRAININGS ON MALNUTRITION AND NCD MANAGEMENT

This quarter, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in collaboration with key partners, conducted two major training initiatives aimed at strengthening the delivery of essential services across Lebanon's Primary Health Care (PHC) network.

A comprehensive training on the updated national guidelines for managing acute malnutrition in children under five was implemented to enhance the capacity of PHC coordinators, staff, and Community Health Workers (CHWs). The sessions focused on the prevention, early detection, referral, and treatment of wasting and nutritional edema, based on the latest national protocols. The rollout included 1 IT training for treatment centers, 18 group trainings for PHCCs and CHWs focused on screening, and 35 one-on-one technical support sessions, carried out in collaboration with IOCC to reinforce treatment center readiness.

In parallel, and within the framework of the Aa Salameh program, the MoPH, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), organized a nationwide training series on the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). These sessions introduced a standard clinical algorithm of care and focused on enhancing PHC staff skills in patient assessment, nutrition counseling, and chronic disease self-management.

These capacity-building efforts reflect MoPH's continued commitment to equipping frontline healthcare workers with the tools and knowledge needed to deliver high-quality, evidence-based care to communities across Lebanon.



SCHOOL HEALTH INITIATIVE: PROTECTING STUDENTS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES



Schools are more than just places of learning they are a frontline for protecting children's health and well-being. The School Health Project, launched by the Ministry of Public Health in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and supported by UNICEF, is designed to bring essential healthcare services directly to students through strategic links with Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs).

Now in its second year, the project continues to grow. In 2025, despite a delayed start due to the ongoing war and a very limited implementation period (1 February to 10 April 2025), the project successfully screened 256,017 students across 1,003 public schools, with the participation of 276 PHCCs.

This represents a slight increase in the number of students screened compared to 2024, when the project reached over 255,000 students across 1,049 schools with the support of 249 PHCCs. The slight decrease in school participation this year is attributed to the security situation and the tight timeframe for implementation.

Despite the difficulties, the School Health Project continues to reinforce the critical bridge between schools and health systems. By connecting schools with nearby PHCCs, it brings essential services closer to students and their communities building a stronger, healthier future for all.

STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO CARE: UPDATES ON THE LONG-TERM PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SUBSIDIZATION PROTOCOL (LPSP)

One of the key ongoing efforts is the on-going development of new subsidized service packages addressing critical health needs, including Type 1 diabetes and cancer care.

These packages aim to provide more comprehensive, equitable access to essential diagnostics, treatment, and follow-up for patients facing high-cost, chronic conditions. Alongside these new packages, the MoPH is working to unify educational materials related to chronic disease management, ensuring consistency in patient communication and caregiver training across all implementing centers.

As part of this revision process, the indicators used to monitor the implementation and impact of LPSP services are also being updated to align with the expanded scope and evolving needs of the population.

In a major milestone, the Ministry has increased the national budget allocation for primary healthcare from 5% to 15%. This threefold increase reflects a strategic shift toward prevention and community-level care and will allow for broader implementation of the LPSP in currently unsupported PHCCs, ensuring that more people can access affordable, quality health services closer to home.

Together, these developments represent a significant step forward in strengthening Lebanon's primary healthcare system and promoting sustainable health coverage for all.



This edition highlights the continued efforts of the Primary Health Care Department and its partners to strengthen community health across Lebanon — from expanding access through initiatives like Aa Salameh and the School Health Project, to investing in capacity-building trainings and advancing the Long-Term Primary Healthcare Subsidization Protocol (LPSP).

Despite ongoing challenges, these achievements reflect a shared commitment to delivering quality, preventive, and patient-centered care. With increased resources, innovative programs, and stronger collaboration, the path forward promises not only sustained progress but a healthier future for all communities.