



REPUBLIC OF LEBANON
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Minister

Archiving Number: 2/4
Beirut in 11 May 2018

Decision number 887/1

Related to the establishment and management of the health Policy Support Observatory at the Ministry of Public Health

The Minister of Public Health,

Based on decree number 3 dated 18/12/2016 (formation of government),

Based on the principles of good governance where health policy-making relies on scientific evidence and applied information; on collaborative governance through the building of alliances between partners of the health sector and the strengthening of institutional capacities; and on managing citizens' expectations,

Based on the signing of the tripartite collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the American University of Beirut (AUB) registered under the number 18312/1/2018 dated 30/4/2018 for the establishment of a health Policy Support Observatory,

And based on the proposal of the Director General,

Decides on the following:

Article 1: A health Policy Support Observatory (PSO) is established at the MoPH, central building, 3rd floor, location inaugurated on the 16th of April 2018.

Article 2: The Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at AUB will take on the responsibility of managing this Observatory under the supervision of a guiding committee which includes members from the MoPH, WHO, FHS and independent experts.

Article 3: The PSO provides scientific and operational information to develop and implement sustainable policies that are based on evidence and account for the needs and positions of partners of the health sector and to citizens' expectations, through:

- Providing the MoPH and the different stakeholders involved in developing policies and translating them into practice with scientific knowledge drawn from published studies and international references.
- Assisting in redesigning and developing the IT systems at the MoPH to produce pertinent information for decision-making.

- Providing technical support to the different departments of the MoPH, through direct interaction with them and without interfering in their work, to identify administrative bottlenecks and find respective solutions for proper implementation of health policies.
- Gathering strategic information around the geography of the different stakeholders of the health sector, and assessing citizens' needs, expectations and means of addressing them while making the best use of national resources.
- Strengthening the collaborative governance approach in the health sector, building alliances between partners in the health sector and strengthening their institutional capacities, and coordinating the process of continuous cooperation and networking among them.

Article 4: A guiding committee for the PSO is formed with the following members:

- Minister of Public Health: President
- MoPH Director General: Vice President
- PSO coordinator: Rapporteur
- Dean of FHS-AUB: Member
- WHO Representative: Member
- WHO National Professional Officer: Member
- Head of the Vital Statistics Department at MoPH: Member
- Head of the Public Relations and Health Education Department at MoPH: Member
- Experts: Dr. Wim Van Lerberghe, Dr. Abdelhay Mechbal, Dr. Nabil Kronfol, Dr. Ghassan Hamadeh

The guiding committee meets twice a year at least, and when needed through an invitation from its President. The committee supports the PSO in identifying priorities and opportunities, shedding light on the main health issues, and in developing the work plan.

Article 5: The PSO takes on the permanent secretariat role for organizing the work of the National Health Forum which would act as a platform to discuss health sector issues with the participation of all relevant stakeholders; shed light on the work of the institutions and achievements of the health sector in order to increase trust in the health system, and raise awareness around needs, priorities, and rational policies. In addition, the PSO will assess the degree of public responsiveness to health policies. The PSO will also help organize the National Health Forum's annual conference.

Minister of Public Health, Lebanon
Ghassan Hasbani

To be informed:

- Directorate General of Health
- World Health Organization
- President of the American University of Beirut
- Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut
- Heads of Units at the Ministry of Public Health up to the level of the Heads of Departments
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