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### HE. Dr. Rakan Nassereldine

*Minister of Public Health – Lebanon*

We are pleased to introduce the first edition of our joint newsletter marking a new chapter in collaboration between the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the Australian Lebanese Medical Association (ALMA), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). With the International Office officially activated in October 2024, this partnership reinforces our shared commitment to strengthen Lebanon's healthcare system through diaspora engagement. Together, we aim to build lasting channels for knowledge sharing, technical support, and capacity-building to better serve the health of all Lebanese.



### Dr. Walid Ahmar

*President, ALMA*

This tripartite partnership opens new pathways for international collaboration between health professionals in Lebanon and its members of the Lebanese diaspora in Australia, alongside Australian governmental and health officials, ready to work together to support Lebanon's healthcare system strengthening and reform. The International Office, led by Ms. Marise Abboud, acts as a bridge to facilitate this exchange. Through knowledge sharing, we are committed to forming expert working groups in priority health areas as identified by the Lebanese MoPH, expanding training opportunities, sharing best practices, and creating sustainable partnerships for long-term impact, ultimately benefiting the health of populations in both nations.



### Mr. Mathieu Luciano

*Head of Office, IOM Lebanon*

This inaugural newsletter marks an important milestone in our work to strengthen the Lebanese medical system through this tripartite partnership. The Lebanese diaspora has long shown unwavering commitment to their homeland, especially in times of crisis. Through IOM's global collaboration with diaspora groups, we know that diaspora communities possess a diverse range of technical resources to drive change both in their countries of residence and in Lebanon. Together, we can enhance health outcomes in Lebanon, strengthen institutions, and build a solid foundation for future cooperation.

NEWS & UPDATES

## Comprehensive Database: Mapping the Australian Lebanese Medical Diaspora

*The Roots and Routes: Mapping the Lebanese Medical Diaspora* survey aims to create a comprehensive database on the Lebanese medical professionals worldwide to better understand and engage with the diaspora community. The survey was launched at the end of January 2024 by engaging members of the Lebanese medical diaspora in Australia through ALMA. If you are part of this community and haven't yet completed the survey, we encourage you to do so by accessing the survey through [this link](#).

## Office Engagement in National Health Conversations

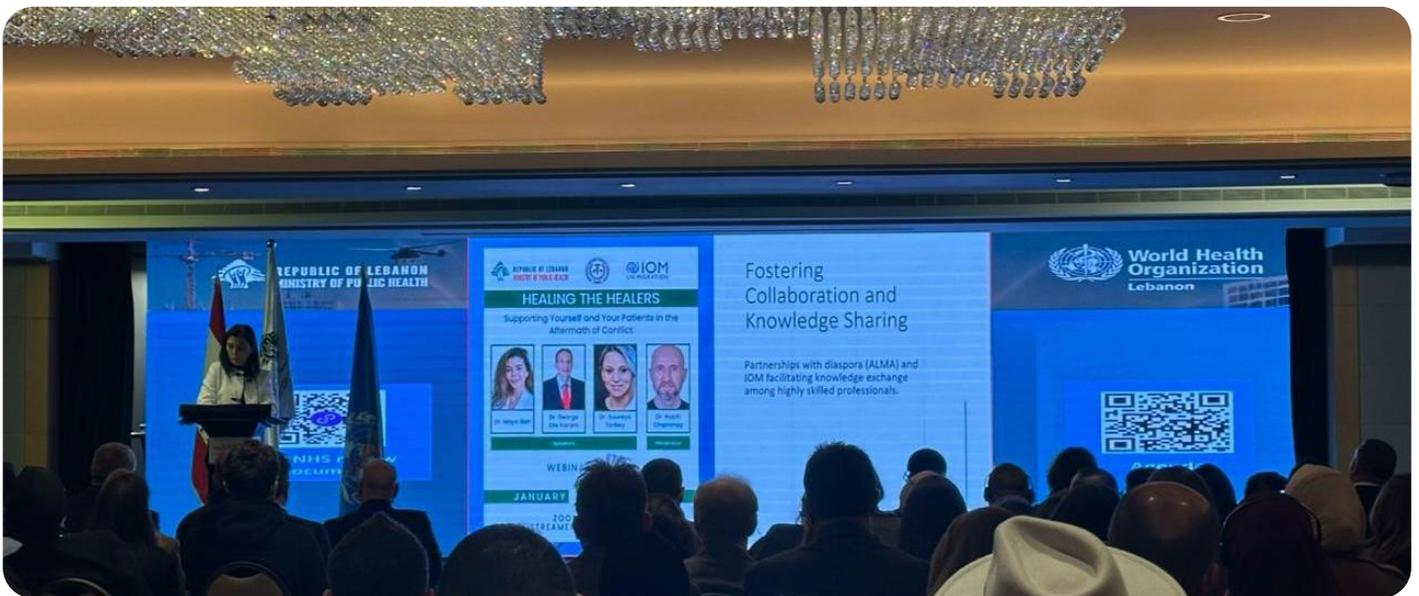


Figure 1. Two-Year Review Event: Lebanese MoPH's National Health Strategy

As a newly formed partnership under MoPH, the International Office has been actively introducing its objectives into national health conversations across sectors. By taking part in MoPH-led initiatives such as seminars with public health PhD students, emergency response lessons-learned sessions, awareness and subnational coordination events, and contributing to key documents such as the [Emerging from Crisis: Lessons Learned from the 2024 War on Lebanon](#) and [National](#)

[Health Strategy 2030: Two-Year Review](#), in parallel to planning regular biweekly stakeholder meetings between MoPH, ALMA, and IOM, the Office ensures meaningful representation and presence. By also connecting with the international medical diaspora (ILMA), these efforts help spark ongoing dialogue and strengthen connections to navigate where diaspora resources will be most needed to address critical health challenges like brain drain and technical resource gaps in Lebanon.

*MoPH, ALMA, and IOM invite Lebanese health institutions to collaborate with the medical diaspora on targeted initiatives addressing critical health needs.*

JOIN US IN BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT AND  
CONNECTED HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FOR LEBANON.

Click Here

to learn more about focus areas and how to apply.

## ENGAGING COMMUNITIES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SHARING

### Webinar Series Initiative

In the first quarter of 2025, a webinar series was launched to bring together Lebanon's local and diaspora medical communities through expert-led sessions bridging medicine and public health. Over 200 participants attended the 1.5 hour live virtual sessions and were awarded certificates of attendance. To maximize reach and accessibility for the international community, the webinars were also livestreamed on ILMA's Facebook page. Interactive tools such as survey polls, reactions, Q&A, and chat were used to promote engagement and provide valuable audience

insights. Webinars themes focused on [mental health](#), [telehealth](#), and [women's health](#), and their recordings are available on the [MoPH's YouTube channel](#) to support flexible, continuous learning.

After a strong first quarter, the series continues in Q2 this time with the Lebanese Medical Students' International Committee (LeMSIC) to work on collaborative, more targeted sessions to the local medical community. Follow the MoPH's social media platforms found on page five for more updates!



Figure 2. Quarter 1 Webinar Series Poster Collection

### Regulation of Food Supplements in Lebanon

To support the regulatory framework for food supplements in Lebanon and drawing on Australia's well-established expertise and rigorous regulatory framework, MoPH organized two key initiatives in partnership with ALMA and IOM.

#### Virtual Expert Meeting

A 1.5 hour virtual meeting was held on January 30, 2025, bringing together staff from the MoPH's Preventive Healthcare Directorate, and three ALMA members, nominated for their knowledge and expertise of Australia's regulatory context.

The session provided a platform for the MoPH team to ask questions to the ALMA members on the regulation of a wide range of food supplements, including vitamins, minerals, herbs, amino acids, and food products such as protein bars and sports drinks. The meeting was also recorded for continued reference by the MoPH.

## ENGAGING COMMUNITIES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SHARING

### Workshop Event & MoPH Visit

A full-day workshop titled *Regulating Food Supplements in Lebanon: Global Perspectives, Local Action* was held on April 22, 2025, at the Mövenpick Hotel, Beirut, Lebanon. This first-of-its-kind event gathered stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and international organizations to discuss national regulatory reform. The workshop featured a presentation on Australia's regulatory model, followed by a panel discussion that addressed challenges, opportunities, and context-specific strategies for improving food supplement regulation in Lebanon. You can visit MoPH's [LinkedIn](#) and [website](#) to read more about the event.



Figure 3. Stakeholders Gather at the Food Supplements Regulation Workshop in Lebanon

Following his visit to Lebanon and participation in the workshop event, ALMA representative Dr. Aniss Chami and his father met with the Minister of Public Health for a meaningful discussion on continued collaboration, with the Minister highlighting key focus areas such as food supplements regulation where ALMA could support. The meeting concluded with a tour of MoPH offices to introduce Dr. Chami to the work distribution and teams involved in food supplement regulation.



Figure 4. ALMA Representative Meets With the Lebanese Minister of Public Health

## Invitation: ILMA's Annual Conference 2025



The International Lebanese Medical Association (ILMA) will hold its Second Annual Conference on July 26, 2025, at the Phoenicia Hotel in Beirut, Lebanon.

ILMA is the largest Lebanese health diaspora association, with members in 36 countries. The conference aims to gather the Lebanese health diaspora through ILMA with MoPH, IOM, multiple health associations, NGOs active in the Lebanese health sector; and Lebanese health students to collaborate on how we can: Bring the Future of Medicine to Lebanon.

A formal program will be released soon. In the meantime, you can read more [here](#) about last year's inaugural conference. I invite you to register and be a part of our exciting conference by registering on [this link](#). I look forward to meeting you all and working together for the betterment of the Lebanese health system.

**Dr. Walid Ahmar**

*President, ILMA*

## Meet the team: Faces Behind the Partnership



The tripartite partnership is driven by a dedicated team working across continents and time zones to mobilize medical diaspora resources, connecting them with Lebanon's local health communities to foster shared learning and strengthen the national healthcare system.

[Click Here](#)

to get to know its members and explore the organizational structure, developed to guide current and upcoming coordination and team dynamics.

Follow us to stay connected and never miss an update!

MoPH



IOM



ALMA



ILMA



 For any inquiries, please contact us by [email](#).