

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT  
**Announcement**



August 15, 2021

To the AUB community,

A note of thanks to all of you and to those who rallied for our rescue, and of mourning and prayers for our sisters and brothers who lost their lives and those who were injured in today's tragic explosion in Akkar.

AUBMC was faced yesterday with an imminent power cut due to the lack of fuel delivery for many days. And after many calls that went unheeded, the AUB administration finally managed to get through to those who saw the dangers and were willing to take the initiative and help. Fuel suppliers, companies and citizens have stepped up, and AUBMC and other hospitals began to receive a resupply of fuel. AUBMC is gradually building back up its fuel supply and by tonight should have around a week of reserves. In the meantime, the work on longer term plans to ensure sustainability continues.

AUBMC understands and empathizes with its stellar physicians, nurses, staff, and especially its patients who were profoundly distressed to first hear of this news that was sent to the AUB community and out on social media. The circumstances were and remain such that only the Ministries of Defense and Health have attempted to be responsive to the Lebanese hospitals' repeated and increasingly urgent requests to have their electricity and fuel supplies maintained and prioritized.

The UN, WHO, World Bank, and others have also stepped up to support AUB and its medical center. AUB is grateful to all its friends, and especially to its community of physicians, nurses, faculty, and staff who have opted to hold their ground and practice their endurance and perseverance.

AUB will do all it takes to get through whatever may come and will continue to fulfil its mission to provide excellence in education, to participate in the advancement of knowledge, and to care for those in need. Its medical center will remain strong in its dedication to the pursuit of improving the health of those in Lebanon and the region through exceptional health care, training, and leadership. Serving our mission and our people must and will carry us through these dark days, to the better days that working together, we shall ensure will eventually come.

**Office of Communications**