

Reimagining and Advancing Healthcare: The Story and Promise of LHMA



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In 2001, the Lebanese Healthcare Management Association (LHMA) was born.

The founding members recognized that while medical knowledge was advancing and institutions were growing, the systems that governed, financed, and coordinated care were lagging. For them, true progress required professional management, strategic planning, and informed leadership. From the beginning, LHMA's mission has been clear: to elevate the science and profession of healthcare management in Lebanon and the broader region. It positioned itself as a neutral, non-profit association, a gathering of multidisciplinary experts, educators, policymakers, and institutional leaders committed to advancing healthcare systems from the inside out.

LHMA played a pivotal role in organizing conferences and seminars in collaboration with local and regional bodies such as the Syndicate of Hospitals in Lebanon and the Arab Hospitals Federation.

Its presence was felt in the corridors of policymaking, but equally in classrooms and training centers, where the next generation of healthcare leaders was beginning to emerge. The Association's influence deepened with its engagement in strategic partnerships, particularly with Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health, WHO and UNICEF. LHMA helped develop roadmaps for performance improvement, advised on structural reforms, and provided technical input on how to manage health systems more effectively.

It brought to the table a rare combination of credibility, neutrality, and technical depth.

Among its most ambitious initiatives was the establishment of the Health Technology Management and Assessment (HTMA) platform in 2008. Recognizing that health technologies, from devices and diagnostics to data systems, were becoming central to both cost and quality, LHMA launched a regional push to professionalize this space. It initiated agreements with international institutions, developed training programs, and advocated for regulatory frameworks that could safeguard patients while empowering innovation.

Through HTMA, LHMA connected Lebanon to a wider movement across the Eastern Mediterranean. It became a recognized partner in regional health technology policy, organizing and participating in meetings with stakeholders from more than 20 countries. It supported the national and regional clinical engineering practices and healthcare technology assessment, and aligned closely with WHO objectives on digital health and technology lifecycle management.

During Lebanon's financial collapse and ongoing healthcare crisis, LHMA convened high-level roundtables, brought together players from across the health ecosystem, insurers, hospitals, banks, suppliers, and regulators, and provided a forum where practical, cross-sector solutions could be explored.

What sets LHMA apart is its quiet strength. It does not rely on media headlines or political clout. Its credibility stems from the integrity of its members, the quality of its work, and the consistency of its vision.

Today, LHMA stands at a pivotal juncture. With a newly elected council and a renewed commitment to national service, the Association is preparing to expand its activities, engage new members, and invest in the future of healthcare leadership. It is calling on healthcare professionals, managers, clinicians, educators, students and innovators alike, to join its mission and assist in shaping the next chapter of Lebanese and MENA region healthcare.

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