

For Immediate Release



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## **AUB Education Department Organizes and Leads the 11<sup>th</sup> “TAMAM” Project Gathering**

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Education in Jordan, the American University of Beirut (AUB) “TAMAM” Project Steering Team organized its 11th gathering titled “TAMAM as an Educational Change Movement: Toward Building Professional Learning Communities to Enhance Student Learning”.

“TAMAM” is an initiative that combines research with development to trigger and support school-based initiatives for sustainable school development and ultimately for the improvement of student learning.

Based on a memorandum of understanding between AUB and the Arab Thought Foundation in 2007, “TAMAM” was founded with the objective of building an empirically grounded theoretical understanding of effective school-based reform that would improve student learning within the particular culture of the Arab region. According to “TAMAM”, school-based reform takes place initially through building the capacities of teachers and administrators within the schools in order to lead the development process so that it can ultimately reach the objective of improving student learning and transforming the school culture into a learning environment.

“TAMAM” is run by two co-principal investigators from the Department of Education at AUB: Dr. Rima Karami, an associate professor of Educational Administration and Leadership; and Dr. Saouma Boujaoude, a professor of Science Education. They are supported by an executive team

of researchers and consultants including: Rola Katerji, Diana Sarieddine, Suha Harb, and Rayyana Saad, in addition to a team of research assistants and interns that contributes to the work of “TAMAM”.

In 2007, “TAMAM” initiative started its work with school practitioners from nine participating schools in three countries: Saudi Arabia (3 schools), Lebanon (3 schools), and Jordan (3 schools). Today, it has spread to cover 39 schools over seven countries (Qatar, Lebanon, KSA, Jordan, Oman, Egypt and Sudan). It currently has a professional community of 170 school practitioners like teachers, principals, administrators and coordinators; 14 researchers from 8 different universities; and 20 Ministry of Education representatives reaching more than 18,000 students. Moreover, TAMAM has a fully developed Research-Based Professional Development Model tailored for the context of the Arab world and more than eight publications documenting the TAMAM experience in the region. The “TAMAM School Improvement Journey” has also been adopted as a framework for improvement by the Ministry of Education in Lebanon and in Oman. In 2015, “TAMAM” received a five-year grant from the LORE Foundation and established a hub to support school improvement in Lebanon. This hub aims to work with a group of public schools to build their practitioners’ leadership skills that would help them in their school-based improvement journey.

The 11th gathering comprised of three themes. The theme of the first day was “Promoting Student Learning through School Development”. The day began with an opening ceremony that included a welcoming speech presented by the representative of the Project Steering Team at AUB followed with speeches by each of the General Manager of the Arab Thought Foundation, the founder of LORE Foundation, and the representative of the Ministry of Education of Jordan.

The second day’s theme was “Reinforcing Collaboration and Building Learning Communities for an Effective School-Based Reform”, whereas the third and last day of the gathering was themed “Toward Institutionalizing and Sustaining School-Based Reform”. The main session entailed “Modifying the Organizational Structure and the Educational Policies to Support and Activate Development and Sustainability” and was presented by Dr. Rima Karami of the PST in

Beirut, Dr. Mohammad Zaghbi of Tatweer in KSA, Mrs. Rida Ayache of Al-Ahliyah School in Beirut, and Mrs. Diana Gammoh of Al Asriyyah Schools in Jordan.

The gathering was concluded in a World Café in which the participating teams met for reflection with the objective of setting future prospects for “TAMAM” as a movement for school-based improvement.

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**Note to Editors**

**About AUB**

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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