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INVEST IN LEBANON



INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY OF **LEBANON**  
Presidency of the Council of Ministers

# LEBANON CRISIS **RESPONSE PLAN** **COVID -19**

March 2020

[investinLebanon.gov.lb](http://investinLebanon.gov.lb)

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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The COVID-19 pandemic represents a major threat to the global and local economy as many companies and enterprises of all sizes risk closure and collapse.

The Lebanese Government ramped up its efforts to mitigate the impact of the pandemic through the implementation of rapid economic response measures ranging from tax deferrals to targeted awareness campaigns.

**This document provides an overview of the measures adopted and enacted by the Lebanese Government to help businesses and citizens overcome the challenges faced during the current health and economic crises.**

# MEASURES

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A wide array of stringent measures are being put in place to both cope with, and contain the current health crisis in order to minimize its impact on Lebanon's overall socio-economic conditions

**These measures fall under the following categories:**

**FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT**

**TAXES  
& PAYMENTS**

**HEALTH  
& SECURITY**

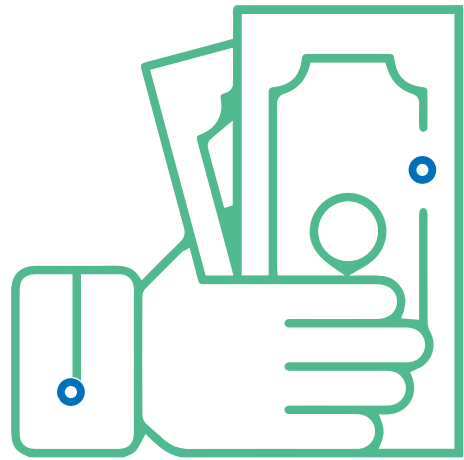
**EDUCATION**

**AWARENESS**

**SOCIAL  
SUPPORT**

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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## a 0% Credit Line Facility for Individuals and Businesses

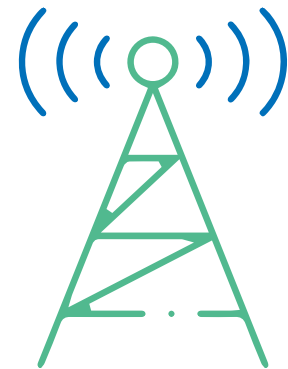
- ▶ The Central Bank of Lebanon granted credit line facilities for commercial banks to provide “exceptional loans” in both LBP and USD to companies or individuals who previously benefited from any loan accorded by these banks (whether subsidized or not) that will be delinquent for the months of March, April and May given the current situation.
- ▶ **The new loan will be accorded exclusively for:**
  - ▶ **Settlement of installments** on previously granted loans due between March-May
  - ▶ **Paying salaries** or covering productive or operational needs of companies
- ▶ These loans will be accorded with a 0% interest rate and for a 5-year through credit facilities provided by the Central Bank to concerned commercial banks, irrespective of the client’s eligible limits.

# TAXES & PAYMENTS

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Deferral  
of Tax  
Payments



Telecom-  
munications  
Facilities

- ▶ Extension of **built property revenues** declaration deadline
- ▶ Extension of **2019 income tax declaration deadline**
- ▶ Extension of **payroll tax declaration and settlement deadline**
- ▶ **Suspension of all deadlines** related to duties incurred by taxpayers for which no extension decision has been issued, until the end of the general mobilization period.
- ▶ Extension of the validity period of prepaid lines and a grace period for the settlement of postpaid lines bills

Implementing Agency \_\_\_\_\_



MINISTRY OF  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

# TAXES & PAYMENTS



Draft law  
VAT  
Exemption  
on Local  
Funds



Draft law  
Regulating  
Donations  
made by  
Public Entities

► A draft law to exempt value-added tax (VAT) for a 6-month period on donations to public administrations, public institutions and municipalities from sources inside Lebanon for the purposes of containing the spread of the coronavirus.

► A draft law to allow all public institutions, municipalities, councils and funds to spend, contribute or finance, either cash or in-kind donations to any public or private body provided that these donations are exclusively allocated to securing health or food aid for affected entities.

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الجمهورية اللبنانية  
رئاسة مجلس الوزراء



# TAXES & PAYMENTS

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## Extension of the Effect of the Clearance issued by the NSSF

- ▶ The **Council of Ministers** extended the validity of the clearance issued by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

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# HEALTH & SECURITY



## Nationwide Lockdown

- ▶ **The Council of Ministers** declared a medical state of emergency and ordered an extendable general mobilization / lockdown with targeted measures to stop the spread of the virus.

Institutions deemed critical such as the Central Bank, health and medical institutions, gas stations, etc. were exempted from this decision.



## Exemption of Vital Industries from Lockdown Decision

- ▶ In line with the preservation of the public interest and health, industries operating in the **agrofood, pharmaceutical, and other complementary sectors**, were also exempted from the lockdown decision.

**[“Check here the full list”](#)**

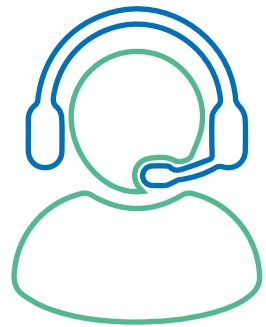
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# HEALTH & SECURITY

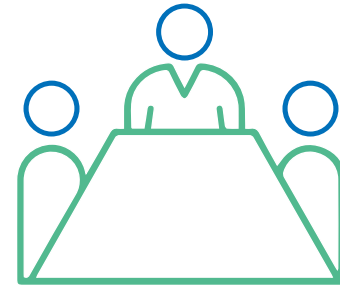
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New Hotline  
to Report  
Covid-19  
Cases

▶ A new hotline by the **Ministry of Public health** will be placed at the disposal of citizens to report Covid-19 cases and to enquire about necessary advice.

**Hotline: 01 594 459**



New Council to  
Monitor Current  
Healthcare  
Innovations

▶ The newly-founded **Scientific Advisory Council** tasked with enhancing Lebanon's industrial capacity, will be deployed to take part in the assessment of the country's need for medical equipment and supplies required for combatting the novel Coronavirus, and will control the compatibility of local inventions and innovations with international standards and regulations.



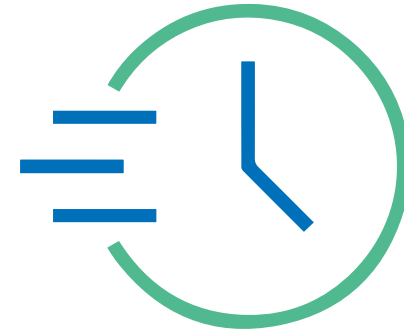
# EDUCATION

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## National Distance Learning Plan

▶ With all educational institutions closed due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the **Ministry of Education** launched a distance learning initiative through several platforms with the support of the **Ministry of Telecommunications**, which will provide the necessary technology to support the program.



## Internet to be Doubled in Speed & Capacity

▶ In line with the **Ministry of Education's** new E-Learning Plan, the Lebanese Government doubled the internet speed and capacity of consumption for subscribers with public ISP Ogero in residential areas until the end of April.

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# AWARENESS

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Online Legal  
& Tax Advisory  
Provided  
by IDAL

- ▶ Due to the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus, **the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL)** has launched free online legal and tax advisory services whereby SMEs and startups can book an appointment and have virtual access to a team of experts



Launch of  
an Informative  
Platform for  
Businesses

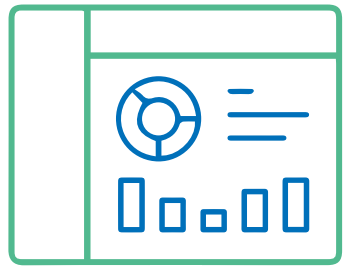
- ▶ **The Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL)** launched a temporary platform - Lebanon Updates - providing investors, companies and the international community with information on public and private sector measures being adopted to face the current crisis.

The platform centralizes all decrees, decisions and circulars impacting the day-to-day operations of companies.

[Lebanonupdates.com](https://Lebanonupdates.com)

# AWARENESS

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MoPH  
COVID-19  
Dashboard



Daily  
Situation  
Reports

- ▶ **A new dashboard "Coronavirus COVID-19 Lebanon Cases"** is put in place by the Ministry of Public Health to follow up on the numbers, data and latest updates regarding the epidemiological surveillance of the Coronavirus in Lebanon.

[www.moph.gov.lb/maps/covid19.php](http://www.moph.gov.lb/maps/covid19.php)

- ▶ **The Disaster Risk Management Project (DRM)** at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers is featuring **daily situation reports** and centralizing **latest circulars** issued by ministries in response to COVID-19.

[www.drm.pcm.gov.lb](http://www.drm.pcm.gov.lb)



# AWARENESS

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## Hotline Numbers for Expatriates

- ▶ The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** put at the disposal of Lebanese expatriate a list of hotlines of Lebanese embassies and consulates abroad to follow-up on the repatriation mechanisms and other emergency cases.

<http://drm.pcm.gov.lb/Media/News/embassies-hotline.pdf>

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# AWARENESS

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## COVID-19 Tracking Website

- ▶ The **Ministry of Information** launched a new website to keep Lebanese informed on all issues related to COVID-19 in Lebanon in conjunction with an awareness campaign launched by the Lebanese Army's Orientation Directorate aimed at curbing the spread of the virus.
- ▶ The platform highlights main figures related to the current health situation, important news and useful contacts

[corona.ministryinfo.gov.lb](https://corona.ministryinfo.gov.lb)

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Republic of Lebanon  
**Ministry of Information**



# SOCIAL SUPPORT

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## Financial Aid Plan for Most Vulnerable Families

- ▶ The **Council of Ministers** approved to grant financial aid worth **LBP 400,000** to the most vulnerable families in Lebanon who have lost their jobs or have been affected by the government's lockdown measures.



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