



التحالف الإقليمي للأمراض غير السارية إقليم الشرق الأوسط
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN NCD ALLIANCE

A joint Statement Submitted by the NCD Alliance and the Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance

Agenda item (EM/RC70/3): Integrating noncommunicable disease care in emergency settings.

70th Session of WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean - Cairo,

Your excellences, Ministers of Health, Heads of delegates, ladies and Gentlemen.

The Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance, supported by the Global NCD Alliance, would like to thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement

The increasing prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) among crisis-affected populations in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) necessitates immediate attention. Political instability, war, and conflicts have placed significant strain on nearly all EMR countries, resulting in over 50% of people experiencing forced displacement. Furthermore, the rising occurrence of NCDs within crisis-affected populations is a pressing concern that, regrettably, often goes unaddressed.

Effective management of NCDs during emergencies and conflicts requires customized treatment approaches, adaptability, the management of acute complications, the provision of specialized care, and the coordination of care delivery across all stakeholders, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and people living with NCDs.

While we acknowledge the ongoing efforts of the World Health Organization (WHO) in offering practical guidance for the integration of NCD care in emergency settings, we express concerns regarding the slow progress in implementing the WHO recommendations. These recommendations emphasize the importance of countries and partners investing in establishing durable, long-term emergency preparedness and response systems for NCDs in all nations, regardless of their emergency status. This investment is crucial to guarantee the continuous provision of essential NCD services.

Therefore, we call upon all countries in the EMR to take action:

- Endorse the WHO Regional framework for NCD integration in emergency settings, including the key strategic interventions and monitoring indicators.
- Assess the existing capacity for NCD preparedness and response in emergency situations, and enhance integration of NCD services into emergency healthcare to ensure that people living with NCDs receive appropriate care, even in the most challenging scenarios.
- Ensure access to essential health services across the entire spectrum of care in emergencies, particularly for individuals at high risk and vulnerable circumstances, such as those living with NCDs.

- Enhance family and community support systems, empowering families and communities to become more self-reliant during crises.
- Acknowledge the vital role played by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in this process, emphasizing the necessity for multisectoral collaboration to ensure NCD integration in the emergency planning process.

Thank You