

With more than two-thirds of all countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region directly or indirectly affected by political conflict, natural disasters and other public health threats, emergencies is high on this year's agenda for the 65th session of the Regional Committee.

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The region bears a heavy burden: Political conflict, natural disasters, and outbreaks affecting 76 million people -- more than half of all people globally in need -- including 17 million refugees. This leads to lower basic population health indicators, such as more maternal deaths than before, and less life expectancy in many places.

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Current and potential hazards threatening populations in the Region include armed conflict, biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear events; vaccine-preventable and waterborne diseases such as measles and cholera; and high-threat pathogen disease such as MERS-CoV

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According to the [World Bank](#), the impact of health emergencies, is a region that is