



In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Message from

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR

WHO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

on the occasion of

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues,

Greetings,

Today, Thursday, the 19th of August, we celebrate the World Humanitarian Day ... a valuable occasion of significance and purpose. It is all the more significant and purposeful coming this year in the holy month of giving, charity, self-denial and love for the sake of God. We also feel the importance of this occasion more strongly as our hearts go out to our brothers and sisters in Pakistan, hard hit by a tragic disaster that has claimed the lives of hundreds of victims and displaced millions who are now struggling for survival. At the same time, the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan, Gaza, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, and other places continues and demands us to help them.

My dear colleagues, you are aware that natural disasters, conflicts and other emergencies threaten the lives and health of millions of people every year, everywhere. The sinful explosions that have returned to target the Iraqi people, and to destabilize the country whenever it takes a step on the road to stability and restoration of security, are just stark examples of such emergencies. In the midst of such crises, thousands of dedicated humanitarian workers strive to care for those who have been affected, and to challenge the difficult circumstances in order to deliver assistance to them. We seize this opportunity to express our deep thanks and appreciation for the unerring giving and vital roles of those who devote themselves to the service of humanity stricken by calamities and chaos. Indeed, as we witness their acts, with admiration and fascination, it is incumbent on us to shed a bright light

on their roles in the humanitarian field, the obstacles they face and how they overcome them, and to stand for a moment in respect and appreciation for those who have lost their lives while performing their noble roles.

Not only that, but we should tell them in words and deeds that we support them and that we are inspired by their spirit of dedication and sacrifice that sends them heedless of serious risks and to dedicate their lives for the rescue of others. Each of us has something to offer in this context, true to the theme of World Humanitarian Day "I am a humanitarian aid worker".