

Annual report of the Regional Director 2024–2025

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WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean

72nd session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean

15 October 2025

Return of displaced Palestinians from south to northern Gaza





Attacks on health care in 2024

Two thirds of all attacks documented globally were in the Eastern Mediterranean Region



Attacks on health care in 2025

> 90% of all deaths documented globally were in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Workers on the frontlines of polio eradication





Marshlands of Iraq



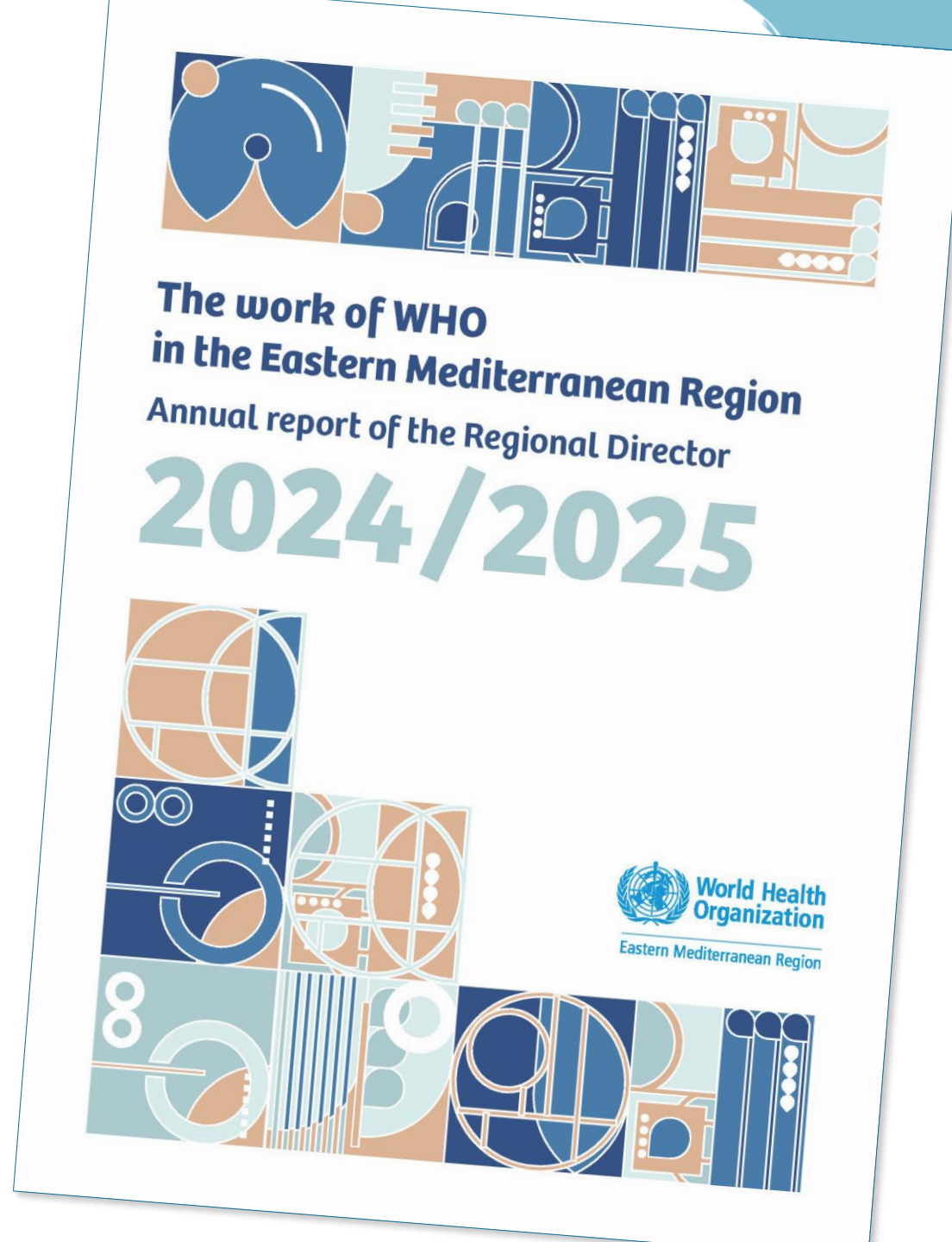
Securing
equitable access
and supply chains of medical products

Investing in a
resilient and sustainable
health workforce

Accelerating
the control of
substance use



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85%

of children have access
to routine immunization
services

In 2024

15 out of 22

countries achieved
coverage of at
least 90% in ≥ 1 vaccine

In 2024

7 countries

introduced 14 vaccines
in their national
immunization schedules



Over

30 million

treatments delivered for
neglected tropical diseases

Egypt certified malaria-free in 2024



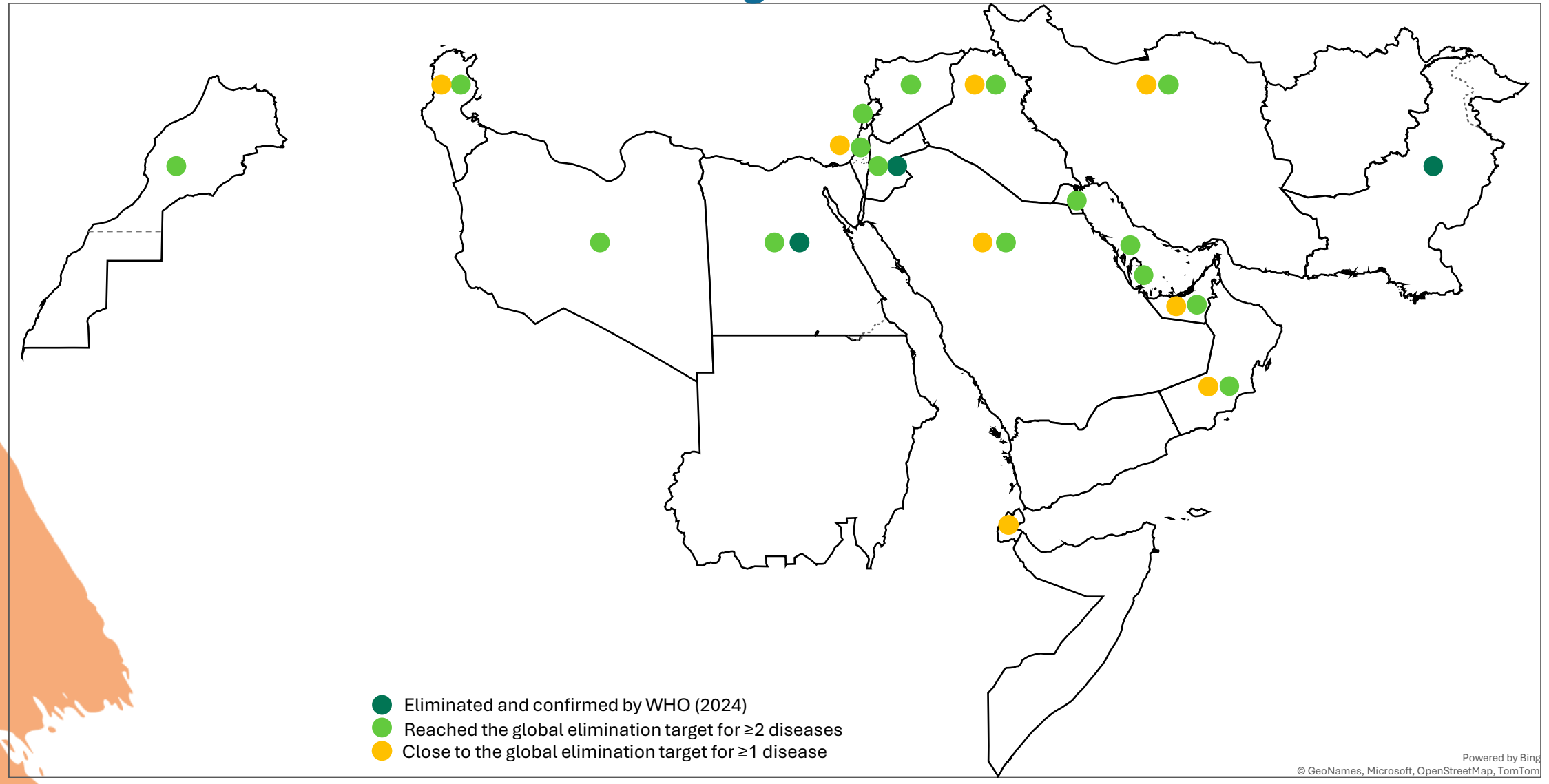
Jordan became first country worldwide

verified for leprosy
elimination, 2024



16 countries

have achieved elimination targets for at least two diseases



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

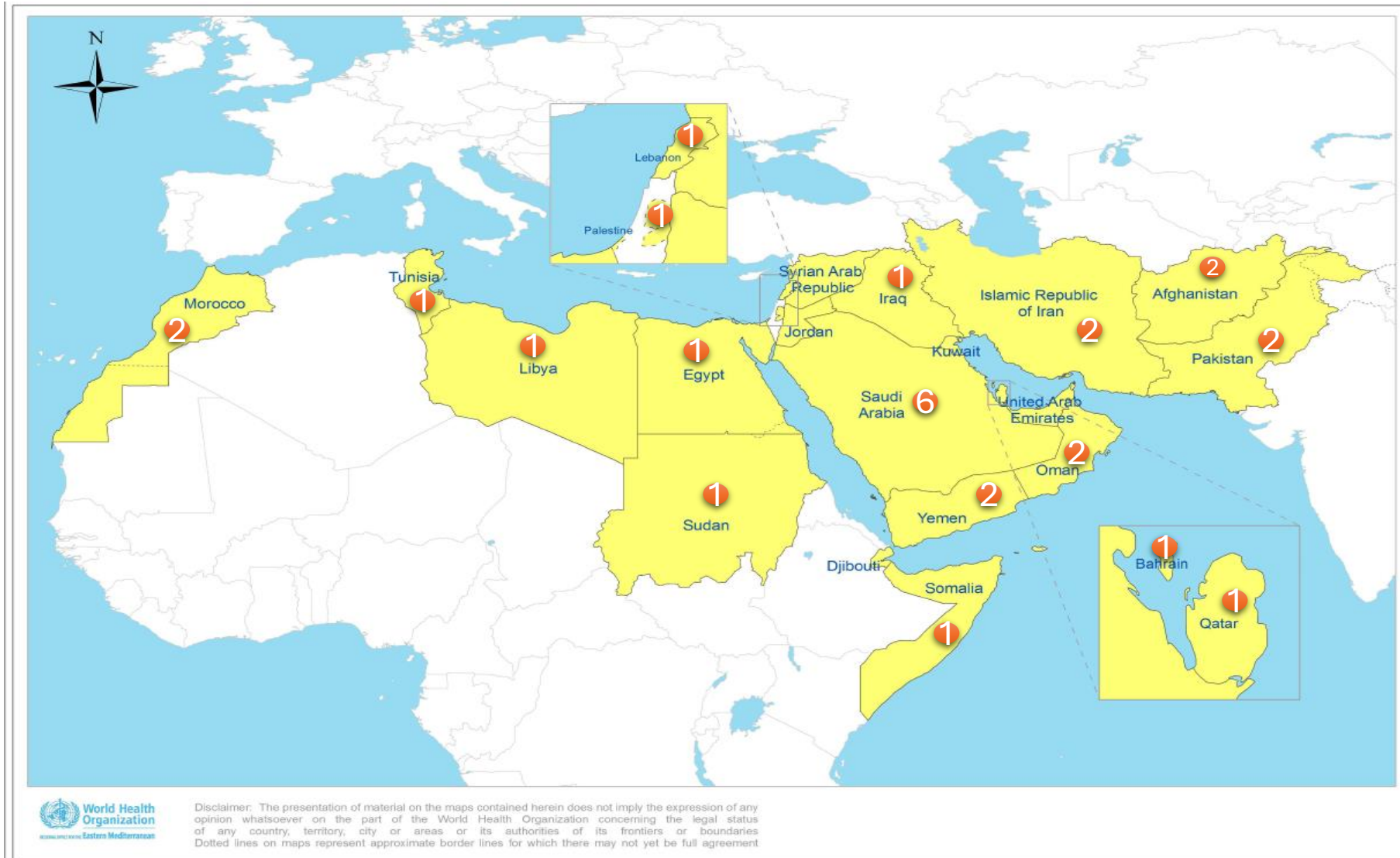
Mental health services in Afghanistan





**Health of refugees,
migrants and displaced
people**
A regional priority

Network of Institutions for Evidence and Data to Policy (NEDtP) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region





WHO Collaborating Centre workshop, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The three flagship initiatives



Securing
equitable access
and supply chains of medical products



Investing in a
resilient and sustainable
health workforce



Accelerating
the control of
substance use



Digitalized warehousing



A projected shortage
of **2.1 million health
workers** by 20230



**6.7% of those aged 15–64
have used drugs in the past year**

6th Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit

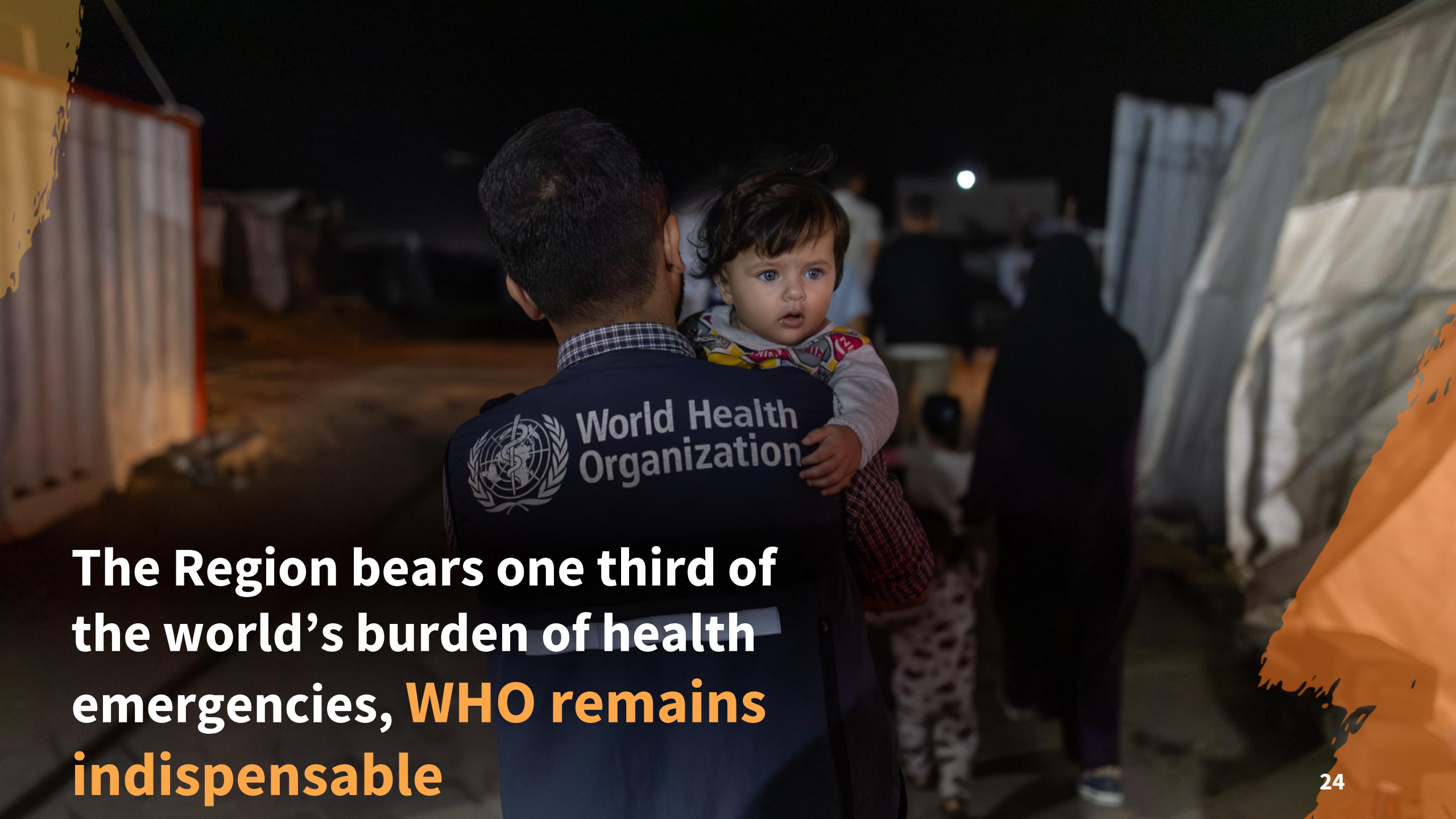
Transforming Mental Health Through Investment, Innovation and Digital Solutions

30th September - 1st October 2025 | Doha, State of Qatar



UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health





The Region bears one third of the world's burden of health emergencies, **WHO remains indispensable**



Dubai Logistics Hub

Shipped **US\$ 34 million** in supplies to **75 countries** in all six WHO regions in 2024



**Maternal and child health
services have been disrupted
in Afghanistan and Somalia**



**Regional solidarity is
our way forward**

Instead of war, **peace.**

Instead of despair, **hope.**

Instead of indifference, **compassion.**

Instead of sickness, **health.**