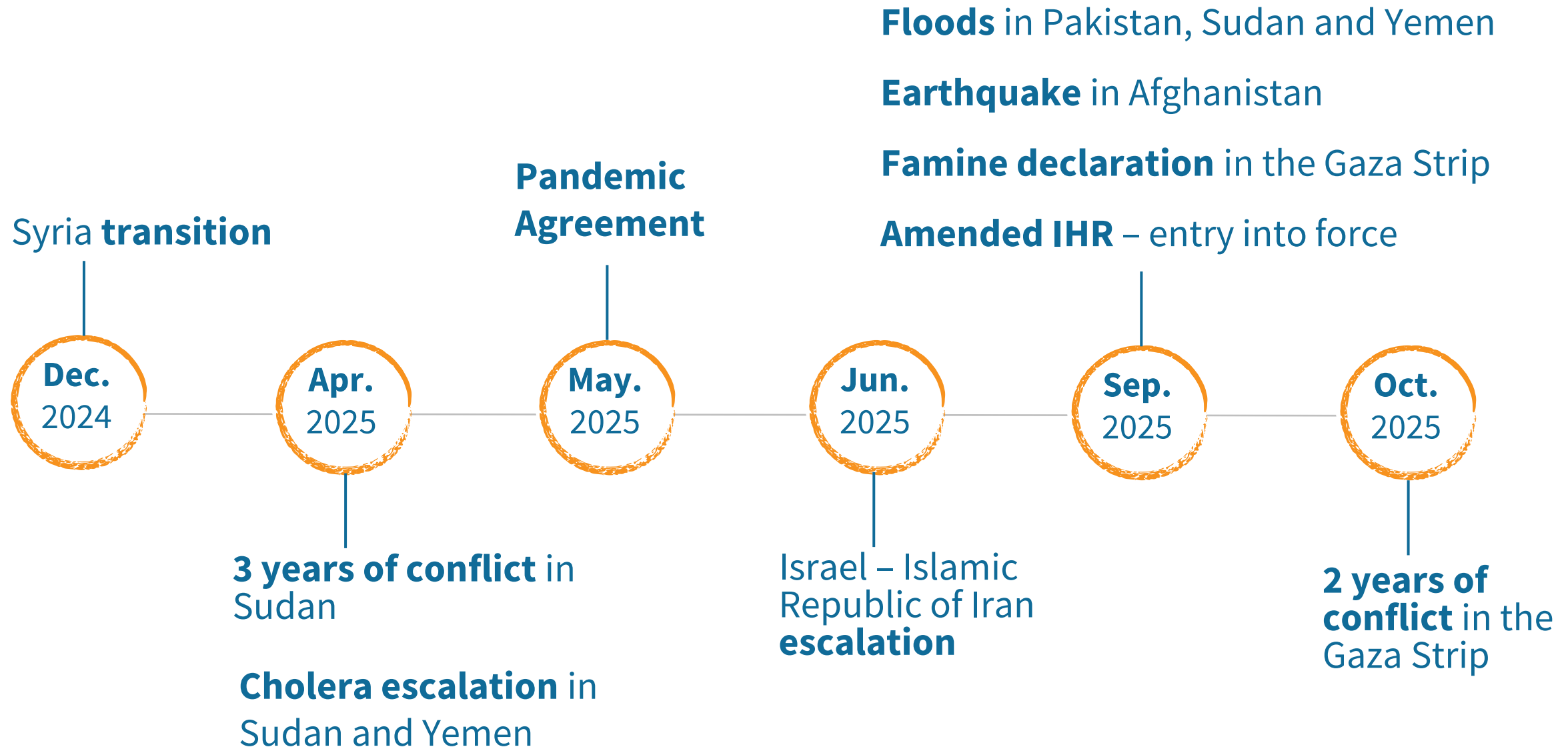


Special update: Emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Dr Annette Heinzelmann
Regional Emergency Director (a.i.)
WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Major developments since the last Regional Committee



Emergency snapshot of the Region



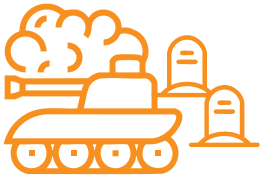
115 million
need assistance



3 of the world's largest
displacement crises



46% of global IDPs
hosted in the Region



125 000
deaths due to
violent conflict in
2024–2025



15 graded
emergencies
8 level-3 crises



50 active disease
outbreaks in 2025

Situation in the Gaza Strip



67 000 deaths
170 000 injured
> **12%** population
killed or injured



93%
food insecure; famine
in Gaza City



Access
to health care
jeopardized



Access and security
for health care workers
and WHO staff
a major challenge!

WHO's response



Medical evacuations
> **7800** of
15 000 needed



Maintaining supply chain of
last resort: **US\$ 55 million**
in medical supplies



Emergency Medical
Team deployment
(**3.5 million+**
consultations)



Outbreak
surveillance
and control

Sudan – the forgotten crisis



20 million in need of health assistance



World's largest displacement crisis:
12.4 million forcibly displaced



21.1 million food insecure;
famine conditions in Al-Fasher (IPC)



11/18 states with at least 5 outbreaks

WHO's response



Supporting:
25 hospitals
60 primary health care centres
140+ nutrition stabilization centres



Outbreak surveillance and control:
22 million oral cholera vaccine doses administered
54 cholera treatment units



US\$ 30 million in medical supplies

Afghanistan earthquake



500 000 people affected
2200 deaths
3640 injured



6782 homes destroyed



21 health facilities damaged

WHO's response



6 mobile health teams
13 537 consultations



52 million tonnes of
supplies distributed



Outbreak
surveillance and control

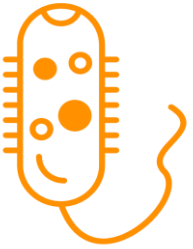


Trauma
management



Protect health. **Save lives.**

Some of our collective regional achievements



Maintaining cholera case fatality rate (CFR) within international standards

8 of **9** cholera outbreaks kept the CFR below **1%**



Maintaining severe acute malnutrition cure rates **> 80%** across **600** centres (above global standard)



Pandemic preparedness: **US\$ 128 million** mobilized through the Pandemic Fund for **7** countries

Shifting realities in emergency response and humanitarian action

- **Shrinking humanitarian access**
- **Erosion of International Humanitarian Law and Geneva Conventions**
- **Shifting global funding landscape**
 - Record-high needs versus record-low funding
 - Emergency health appeals – **Average funding level $\approx$ 29.4% (range: 17% – 43%)**
- **Humanitarian reset**
 - Hyper-prioritized humanitarian response plans
 - Realignment of clusters and mandates
- **Impact on WHO preparedness and response capacities**
 - Underfunded and overstretched!

Our priorities going forward



Strengthen

IHR core capacities



Enhance

emergency management
and operational readiness



Maintain

investments in early
detection and pandemic
preparedness



Improve

consistency of acute emergency
response and partner engagement



Support

recovery through the
humanitarian–development–peace nexus

Asks to Member States



Allocate funding

to maintain Member State
and WHO emergency
management capacities



Advocate

to protect health care and
uphold International
Humanitarian Law



Prepare

for implementation
of the
Pandemic Agreement