

The impact of sanctions on health and health systems in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

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Eastern Mediterranean Region



Why monitor the impact of sanctions on health?

Growing trend

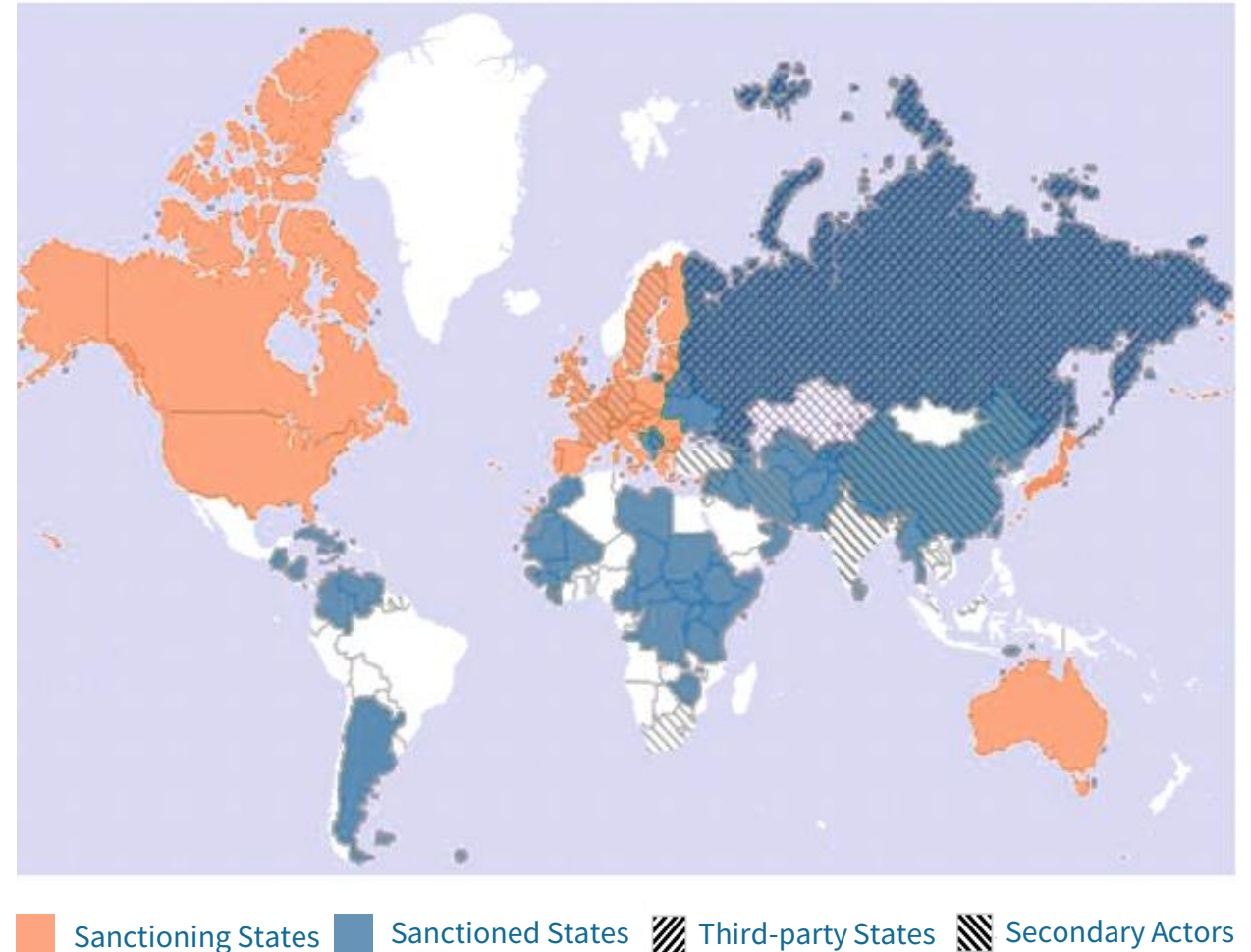
Tripled since 2010

Eastern Mediterranean Region

Increasing number of countries affected

Gap

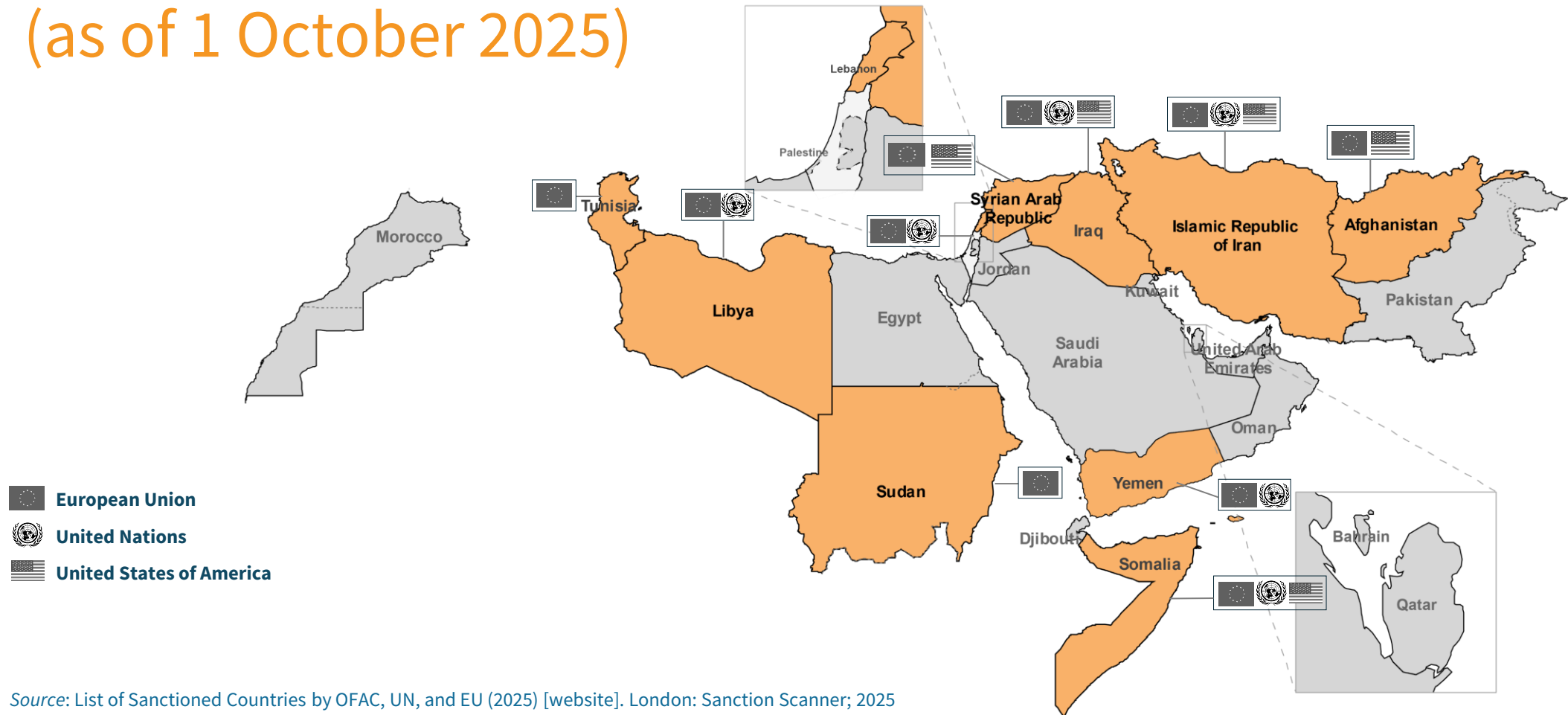
No unified approach to monitoring impact in support of resilience building



Eastern Mediterranean Region:

Member States subject to sanctions

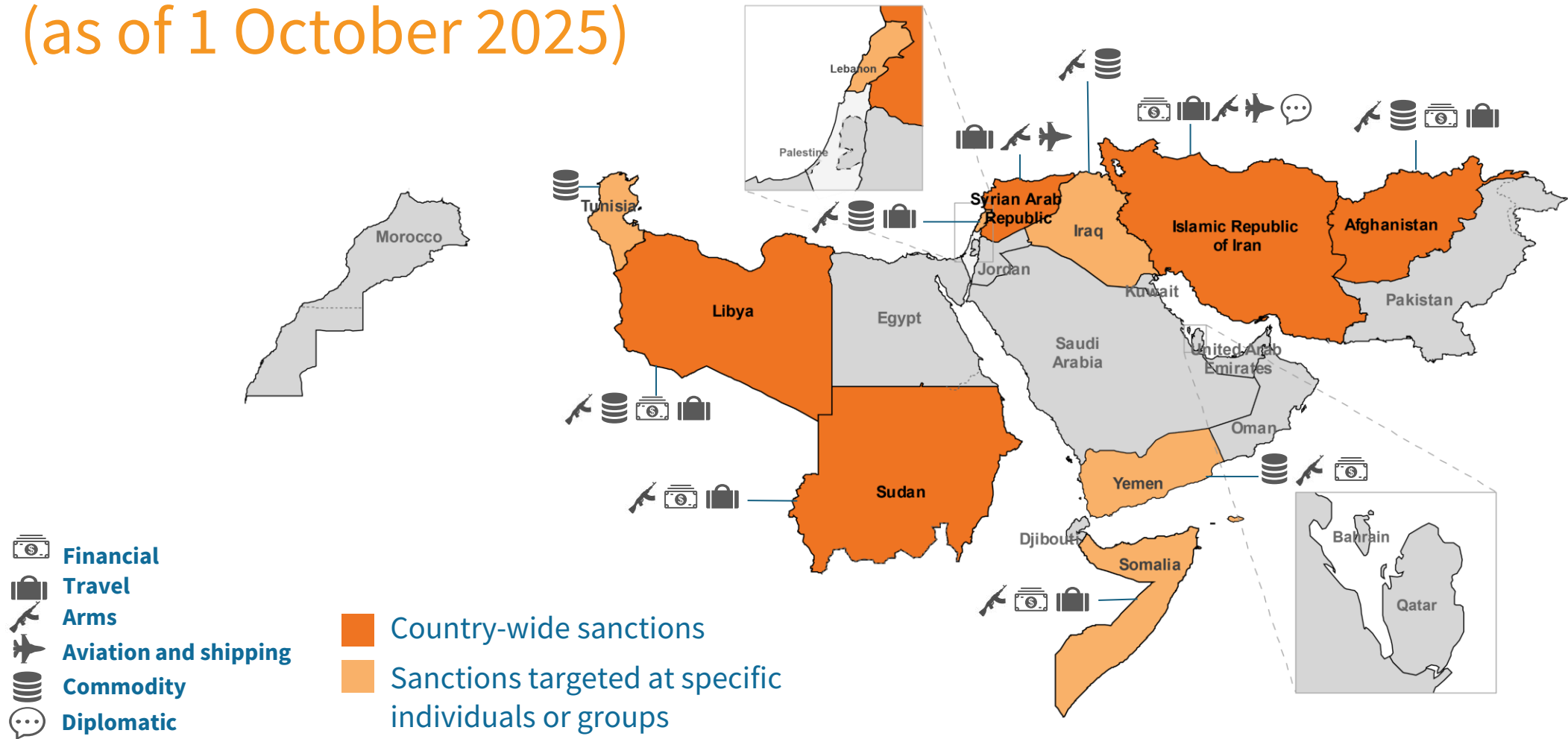
(as of 1 October 2025)



Source: List of Sanctioned Countries by OFAC, UN, and EU (2025) [website]. London: Sanction Scanner; 2025 (<https://www.sanctionsscanner.com/blog/list-of-sanctioned-countries-by-ofac-un-and-eu-2025-1103>).

Disclaimer: '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.'

Eastern Mediterranean Region: Scope and type of sanctions (as of 1 October 2025)



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What has happened so far:

Report of the Commission on
Social Determinants of Health in the
Eastern Mediterranean Region

2021

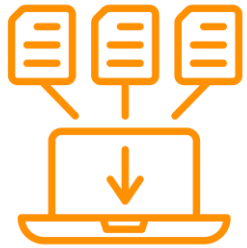
2023

**Systematic review of
sanctions and health systems
(RC70)**

**Islamic Republic of
Iran and Syrian Arab
Republic case studies
(RC71)**

2024

Request to WHO at RC71 (2024)



Develop

a standardized methodology
or data collection tool



Explore

interest from a Member State to
champion this agenda in the Region

Sanctions' Health Assessment and Monitoring Support (SHAMS) tool



OCHA/IASC handbook
and UN Special
Rapporteur's online tool
on unilateral coercive
measures



WHO monitoring tool
on the impact of cuts
in development
assistance for health



In-depth interviews with
global and regional
experts with first-hand
experience

SHAMS

A. Sanctions context

Type (e.g. economic, etc)	Issuing authorities
Supplementary sanctions	Secondary measures
Overcompliance	Exemptions

C. Health system functions

C1. Access to essential health products
C2. Service provision
C3. Emergency capacity
C4. Health financing
C5. Health and care workforce
C6. Health information systems
C7. Health governance

B. Health outcomes

Intermediate	Longer-term
Equity	

D. Beyond health system

Economics
Food security
Migration and displacement
Education
Healthy living

Mitigation measures

Health system resilience	Social protection	Humanitarian aid and partnerships	International diplomacy and advocacy
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SHAMS: Target audience and purpose

Nationally owned for *policy formulation and international engagement*

- **Ministries of health and insurers** → Health system resilience
- **Government social sectors** → Social protection
- **UN agencies and partners** → Humanitarian aid and partnerships
- **Sanctioning entities** → Diplomacy and advocacy

Academic institutions: evidence generation and analysis

SHAMS: Recommended frequency



Medicines and health products, services and finance

→ monthly



Governance, health and care workforce and health information system

→ quarterly or semi-annual



Quantitative indicators

→ annually



Outputs: simple two-page country profile

Next steps

Regional Director

Support implementing the **SHAMS tool** to monitor the impact of sanctions in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and regularly report back to the Regional Committee

