

RC64 bulletin

Issue 1 • 9 October 2017

Welcome
خوش آمدید “*Khush Amdeed*”



H.E. Mr Mamnoon Hussain
President of Pakistan



H.E. Ms Saira Afzal Tarar
Pakistan's Federal Minister for
National Health Services,
Regulations and Coordination



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
WHO Director General



Dr Mahmoud Fikri
WHO Regional Director for the
Eastern Mediterranean

The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean will convene its 64th session of the Regional Committee in Islamabad, Pakistan from 9-12 October 2017

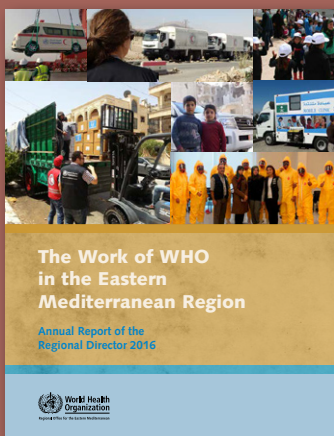
Health ministers and high-level representatives of the 22 countries and territories of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, as well as representatives from partner organizations and civil society, will take part in the Sixty-fourth Session of the WHO Regional Committee.

The inaugural session will be attended by H.E. Mr Mamnoon

Hussain, President of Pakistan; H.E. Ms Saira Afzal Tarar, Pakistan's Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination; Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General; and Dr Mahmoud Fikri, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Regional Committee is WHO's highest governing body on

a regional level. Ministers of health and their representatives will discuss public health priorities for countries of the Region, and more than 250 public health leaders and experts will attend the 64th RC session, including representatives of national, regional and international organizations.



Dr Mahmoud Fikri presents the Annual Report of the Regional Director to the RC



On the second day of the 64th RC session of the Regional Committee, Dr Mahmoud Fikri, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, will review the Annual Report of the Regional Director for 2016. The report focuses on the major work undertaken with regard to the strategic priorities endorsed by the Regional Committee in 2012.



Roadmap of WHO's work for the Eastern Mediterranean Region 2017-2021

Following his election as WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, Dr Mahmoud Fikri had a clear vision on the Region's goals in addressing regional health priorities and how to reach them. He translated this vision into a five-year roadmap, with a set of clear strategic actions, ensuring their alignment with the resolutions and decisions made by the governing bodies.

Pre-Regional Committee Technical Meetings

Prior to the opening of the 64th RC session of the WHO Regional Committee, participants will meet on the morning of 9 October to discuss a number of technical issues that will form the agenda of next year's session. These include private sector engagement for advancing universal health coverage; developing national capacity for research and research ethics; the Regional Good Governance for Medicines programme; the noncommunicable diseases emergency health kit for the Region; and the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. These technical discussions will be followed by the second meeting of the programme subcommittee for the Eastern Mediterranean Region.



Launch of Pakistan's Hepatitis Strategic Framework 2017-2021

Pakistan's first national Hepatitis Strategic Framework 2017-2021 was launched on 8 October 2017 in Islamabad, contributing to the goal of eliminating Viral Hepatitis B and C in Pakistan by 2030.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, congratulated the Government of Pakistan in developing the national framework. Dr Mahmoud Fikri, Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, emphasized that special priority has been given to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Hepatitis B and C in his regional roadmap for 2017-2021.

H.E. Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar, Pakistan's Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination noted that 12 million people in Pakistan are infected with Hepatitis B and C, and that the goal is to eliminate the disease by 2030 through strengthened actions at federal and provincial levels.

During the ceremony, Dr Fikri awarded Dr Huma Qurashi, former executive director of the Pakistan Health Research Council, for her service to the health sector in Pakistan. UN goodwill ambassador and TV host Mr Tauseeq Haider provided a moving testimony of his experience as a survivor of Hepatitis C.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, delegates from different governorates in Pakistan endorsed Framework, demonstrating their commitment to the eradication of Viral Hepatitis B and C as a major public health threat in Pakistan.

Key technical papers on the RC64 agenda

Antimicrobial resistance: Regional commitment is crucial to contain the problem

During the 64th RC session, Member States will discuss a technical paper on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). AMR has emerged as a major public health threat, and has recently received significant global attention in order to limit its spread. The rise of antimicrobial resistance is due to many factors, including lack of awareness and understanding of the topic, lack of robust surveillance systems for AMR, lack of infection prevention and control programmes, and misuse of antimicrobials in the human and animal health sectors. Countries in the Region are faced with multiple challenges that hamper their ability to control AMR, including lack of reliable data, lack of collaboration with the food, agriculture and animal health sectors, and absence or lack of enforcement of laws to control antibiotic use.

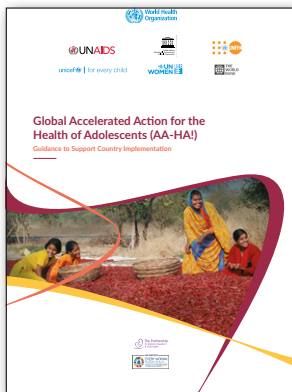
Regional framework to scale up cancer prevention and control

There is a pressing need to scale up cancer prevention and control strategies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, as estimates for 2030 show the Region as having the highest projected increase in cancer burden among all six WHO regions.

A proposed regional framework for action on cancer prevention and control is intended as a tool for Member States to prioritize strategic interventions for cancer prevention and control, based on best available evidence.



↑ A series of posters produced for Antibiotic Awareness Week, which will be held from 13 to 19 November 2017



Supporting the adolescent health component of the global strategy for women's, children's and adolescents' health, 2016–2030

The adolescent mortality rate in low-income and middle-income countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region is the second highest in the world. Adolescence is one of the most formative phases in human development and demands special attention in national development policies, programmes and plans. The Global Accelerated Action for Health of Adolescent (AA-HA!): Guidance to Support Country Implementation is intended as a tool for national policy-makers and programme managers to assist in the planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating of adolescent health programmes.

Climate change and health: a framework for action to curb the threat

Climate change is among the biggest global health threats of the 21st century. Direct health effects of climate change include increased risk of foodborne, waterborne, airborne and vector-borne diseases; malnutrition; excess mortality and morbidity due to heat exhaustion and heat strokes; and exacerbated cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses that arise from extreme weather events. Tackling climate change can be considered an enormous opportunity for global health.

A proposed framework for action on climate change will be presented to the 64th RC session for consideration, aiming to enhance the resilience of health systems and their capacity to protect health from climate risks.

Nomination of a Member State to the Policy and Coordination Committee of the Special Programme of Research, Development, and Research Training in Human Reproduction

According to the rules of membership of the Special Programme Policy and Coordinating Committee, as of 1 January 2018, there will be one vacancy for a Member State from the Eastern Mediterranean Region to replace Afghanistan, whose term of office will come to an end on 31 December 2017. The Regional Committee is requested to nominate one Member State to serve on the Committee for a three-year period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020.

Let's talk to avoid depression: Exhibition of student art work

On the sidelines of the 64th RC session, an exhibition featuring the awarded art work of school students from countries in the Region will be inaugurated. The focus of the art work is "Depression: let's talk" which was the theme of this year's World Health Day.

Every year, WHO's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean organizes an art competition focusing on a World Health Day topic, with students from the Region participating and expressing their views on how they perceive the issue of health. The aim is to increase their awareness of various health topics and acknowledge their talents. This year, almost 50 drawings from across the Region were awarded.

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Award of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize and Fellowship



←
Dr Yasmin
Ahmed
Jaffer

The Executive Board, at its 140th Session, approved the nomination of Dr Yasmin Ahmed Jaffer (Oman) for the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize for 2017. The prize will be awarded to Dr Jaffer during the 64th Session of the Regional Committee held in Islamabad, Pakistan.

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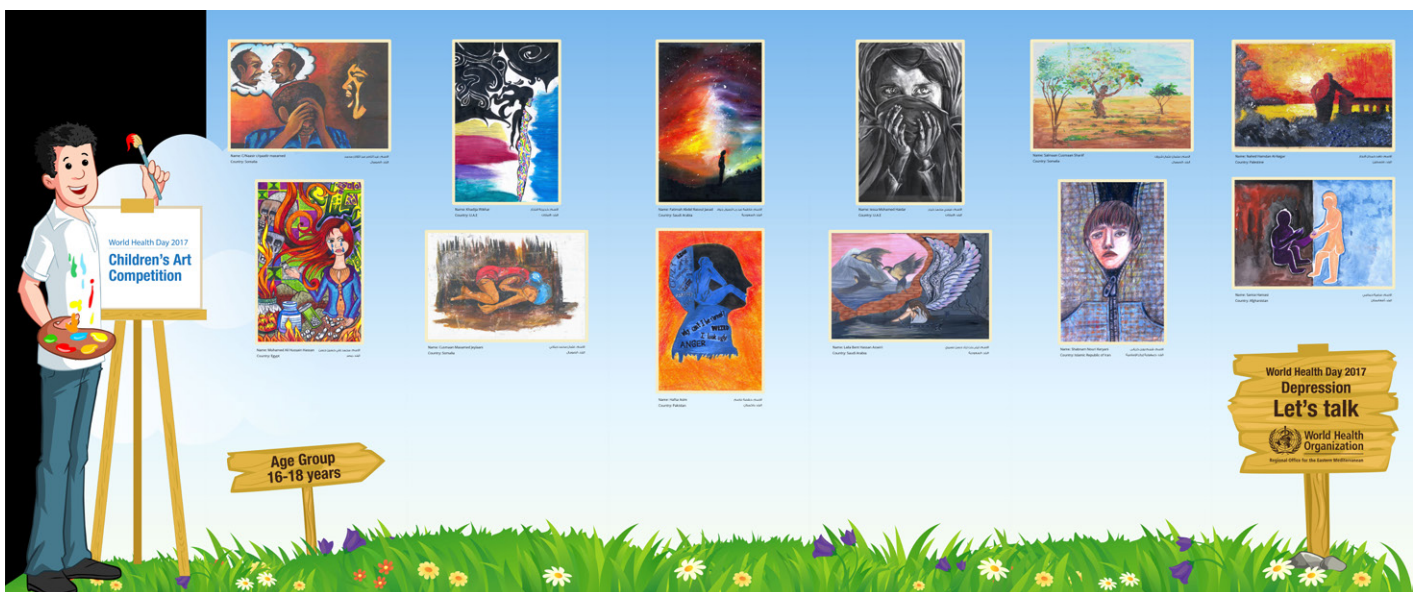
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