

## **Building resilient communities for better health and well-being in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

**Date:** 30 September 2025

**Time:** 11:00–12:30

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Modality:** Virtual (Calendar invitation will be sent by email)

### **Objectives of the event**

On 30 September 2025, a virtual panel discussion will be held on building resilient communities for better health and well-being in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The objectives of the event are to:

- Hold a meaningful and intergenerational dialogue between youth leaders, technical experts, government representatives and civil society actors on how to drive positive change and address specific health needs in communities.
- Highlight youth-led initiatives that address health system challenges, strengthen preparedness and promote equity, in line with implementation of the resolution on building resilient communities for better health and well-being.
- Improve collaboration between youth organizations, WHO, government entities and civil society to be effectively involved in the promotion of health and well-being.

### **Background**

The WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region continues to face complex health challenges, exacerbated by conflict, emergencies and social inequities. In response, the Region has adopted the strategic goal of building resilient communities and integrating them into health systems to promote better health and well-being. This approach, outlined in the regional roadmap included in the Regional Committee technical paper endorsed through [resolution EM/RC68/R.4](#), highlights the importance of inclusive governance and community engagement. The regional roadmap calls for strategic actions around mapping existing communities and networks, establishing links and building trust with communities and civic institutions, and streamlining listening and community feedback to ensure two-way communication. The launch of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region Youth Council in 2024 has offered opportunities to move these strategic directions forward through the involvement of young people.<sup>1</sup>

Young people in the Region are not only affected by current public health challenges – they are also actively advocating and sharing responsibility to address them. From local health initiatives to regional advocacy,

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<sup>1</sup> The Eastern Mediterranean Region Youth Council was established by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and is composed of 20 youth-led organizations from countries across the Region, serving as an advisory platform to integrate youth perspectives into regional health priorities.

youth are shaping innovative ways for community and civic engagement to build resilience and strengthen systems. Recognizing this, the Youth Council and the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean are convening a pre-Regional-Committee webinar to elevate youth perspectives and facilitate intergenerational dialogue ahead of the 72nd session of the Regional Committee.

### **Expected outcomes**

- Identifying youth- and civic-driven innovations and ways to integrate such aspects in WHO's programmatic work in the Region to support the advancement of health and emergency resilience across it.
- Issuing a summary report with recommendations informed by youth and other stakeholders to inform and accelerate progress in implementing the regional roadmap for building resilient communities for better health and well-being.
- Creating opportunities and entry points for encouraging youth and civic participation to drive sustainable impact at community levels by facilitating collaboration between government, and municipalities, civil society and youth representatives at the country level.