

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
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**OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS
IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

Objectives of the event

On 11 October 2022, a side event will be held on the operationalization of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPNx) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The objectives of the event are to:

- raise awareness on the HDPNx approach among Members States of the Region;
- bring together ministers of health and other key stakeholders to facilitate discussion and exchange of ideas on opportunities for implementing the HDPNx for health at the country level; and
- identify the challenges to operationalizing the HDPNx, as well as the available and needed resources.

Background

Emergencies, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, seriously disrupt health systems and negatively impact population health. However, recovery from such emergencies can provide an opportunity to build back better and create stronger, resilient and more fit-for-purpose health systems that are able to promote, restore and maintain health as well as better prepare for and respond to future emergencies.

However, such resilient health systems can only be achieved through the implementation of a clear and coherent recovery strategy. During protracted emergencies where there are multiple humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors, working independently and in silos – with different mandates and funding sources – this may be difficult to achieve. Thus, there is a need for an approach which promotes and facilitates coordination and cooperation among these different actors. The HDPNx (or “triple nexus”) is such an approach, which aims to meet immediate humanitarian needs as well as to reduce such needs over time by leveraging the comparative advantages of humanitarian, development and peace actors, working over multi-year timeframes to achieve collective outcomes. The HDPNx approach promotes joined-up working and partnership among the three groups of actors, with the goals of improving effectiveness and efficiency, reducing service delivery gaps and duplication of efforts, and addressing the drivers of emergencies.

In support of Member States, work has been ongoing to institutionalize the HDPNx programme in the Regional Office over the last two years. This includes the establishment of a nexus-style unit – the Health Systems in Emergencies Lab (HSEL) – which promotes and facilitates collaboration between the Department of Universal Health Coverage/Health Systems, the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, the Department of Healthier Populations and other related technical departments at the regional level. The conceptualization of the HDPNx approach for health is being promoted through the development of an implementation guide. To understand and monitor operationalization of the nexus approach, HDPNx country profiles have been developed for eight countries in protracted conflicts. The nexus approach is being integrated in the work of WHO and regional partners through the GAP Accelerator 5 Working Group on innovative programming in fragile and vulnerable settings and for disease outbreak responses. In addition, a regional training course on implementation of the HDPNx for health has been developed, in

partnership with Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. There has also been active participation in regional coordination platforms, in particular the work of the Issue-based Coalition on the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (IBC/Nexus).

Challenges in the Region

The Eastern Mediterranean is an emergency-prone region and in recent years has suffered a record number of humanitarian crises, most of which are conflict-related. These humanitarian emergencies are increasingly protracted and complex, and affect greater numbers of people and demand more resources than ever before. They also have a direct impact on health by causing injuries, trauma and death, and by affecting political, environmental and other determinants of health that increase people's susceptibility to disease and poor health as well as overburdening health systems. While the Region as a whole has a high burden of communicable and neglected tropical diseases, in addition to rising incidence of noncommunicable diseases and high rates of maternal, new-born, child and adolescent mortality, there are huge health disparities between Member States – and conflict-affected countries have the weakest health systems and the worst health status and outcomes.

Expected outcomes

- awareness raised on the institutionalization of the HDPNx programme in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, including regional and country-level initiatives and the status of progress;
- identification of opportunities to leverage the nexus approach at country level, taking into consideration country-specific needs and situations;
- identification of support that WHO and partners can offer Member States in implementing the HDPNx approach for health systems recovery through the build-back-better approach.