







REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC72/R.3(D) September 2025

Seventy-second session Agenda item 5(b)

Health systems recovery in fragile and conflict-affected situations in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on health systems recovery in fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;¹

Recalling Regional Committee resolution EM/RC69/R.2 on building resilient health systems to advance universal health coverage (UHC) and ensure health security in the Region;

Recognizing that the Eastern Mediterranean Region is one of the world's most fragile and crisis-prone regions, facing armed conflict, natural disasters, public health emergencies and economic collapse, with nine of the 22 countries and territories classified by the World Bank as fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS) as of 2025;

Aware of the direct and indirect impacts of protracted crises on health systems, including economic disruption, weakened governance, destruction of infrastructure, decimation of the health workforce and disrupted supply chains and health services, all of which reduce access to care, erode public trust and increase morbidity, mortality and pressure on host communities, with disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable;

Noting with concern that the Region is at heightened risk of failing to achieve or regressing on key health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including those related to UHC and health security;

Recognizing that while humanitarian response is vital in emergencies, it is limited in duration and scope, whereas by contrast, health systems recovery provides a pathway to long-term resilience, offering an opportunity to build back better, strengthen preparedness and ensure continuity of services;

Acknowledging that health systems recovery also supports broader peacebuilding, social cohesion and development goals, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts;

¹ EM/RC72/7.

Recognizing further that recovery in such settings is often non-linear, frequently disrupted by renewed violence or instability, and characterized by simultaneous humanitarian response and recovery efforts across different regions within the same country;

Emphasizing that for recovery to be effective, it must be inclusive, context-specific, well-coordinated and supported by strong political will and adequate technical and operational capacity across humanitarian, development and peace efforts, based on the nexus approach;

Noting the regional agenda for health systems recovery in FCS in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, as outlined in Regional Committee technical paper EM/RC72/7;

1. **ENDORSES** the regional agenda as set out in the technical paper, including the regional priorities, goals, objectives, priority areas and implementation steps for supporting Member States in advancing health systems recovery;

2. URGES FCS Member States to:

- 2.1 Formulate and implement national strategies for health systems recovery, accompanied by clear roadmaps, targets and timelines;
- 2.2 Integrate resilience-building measures into recovery efforts, ensuring a balance between addressing immediate needs and establishing long-term sustainability;
- 2.3 Strengthen the capacity of ministries of health and relevant stakeholders to lead and implement health systems recovery efforts effectively;
- 2.4 Strengthen the participation and capacities of affected communities and local actors in the recovery process to ensure that health systems are more sustainable and contextually appropriate;
- 2.5 Establish or reinforce coordination mechanisms across humanitarian, development and peace actors to improve coherence and reduce fragmentation;
- 2.6 Develop and operationalize monitoring and evaluation frameworks to measure recovery progress, ensure accountability and promote learning and course correction;

3. URGES non-FCS Member States to:

- 3.1 Consider providing financial support for health systems recovery and resilience-building efforts in FCS countries across the Region, in accordance with their national context;
- 3.2 Promote and employ the humanitarian—development—peace nexus approach to improve the coherence, coordination and effectiveness of assistance to countries experiencing protracted crises;
- 3.3 Advocate for a "build back better" approach to health systems recovery that aligns with UHC and health security objectives and leverages opportunities for institutional transformation with a whole-of-government and whole-of-society risk management approach;
- 3.4 Institutionalize recovery readiness with an all-hazard approach in national health policies, strategies and plans;

4. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:

- 4.1 Provide technical support to Member States in the development and implementation of country-specific health systems recovery strategies and roadmaps;
- 4.2 Strengthen Member States' capacity to lead, coordinate and manage recovery processes, including through regional platforms for knowledge exchange and joint learning;
- 4.3 Support the implementation of the humanitarian—development—peace nexus to ensure alignment and synergy across health-related interventions;
- 4.4 Develop and operationalize a regional coordination platform to harmonize WHO's support to Member States during and after emergencies, promoting standardized tools, guidance and processes for health systems recovery;
- 4.5 Facilitate resource mobilization and technical partnerships to support countries in operationalizing health systems recovery plans and building institutional resilience;
- 4.6 Report to the Regional Committee at its 74th, 76th and 78th sessions on progress in health systems recovery across the Region, ensuring alignment with regional strategies and global commitments to UHC, health security and the SDGs.