

**Video Message by
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for
World Patient Safety Day
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Every year, nearly 800,000 children die before their fifth birthday in the Eastern Mediterranean Region—60 per cent within the first month of life.

Most of these deaths stem from preventable causes like complications from preterm birth, unsafe deliveries, and treatable infections.

As both a pediatrician and a mother, this year's theme for World Patient Safety Day—'Safe Care for Every Newborn and Every Child'—resonates deeply with me.

It is a powerful call to action to make health care safer for our youngest patients, especially in fragile and crisis-affected settings.

This is a moral obligation—and a smart investment. For every US\$1 invested in maternal and newborn health, we see returns of up to US\$20.

We must scale up proven interventions like early essential newborn care, kangaroo mother care, emergency obstetric and newborn care, integrated management of childhood illness, and hospital care for children.

We need stronger data-driven systems, safer childbirth practices, and empowered caregivers at the heart of it all.

On this World Patient Safety Day, let us commit to safer beginnings and healthier futures for every child, everywhere.