



**Message from**  
**Dr Hanan Balkhy**  
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**Eastern Mediterranean**  
**on the occasion of**  
**World Health Day**  
**7 April 2024**

Health is a human right, not a privilege. But all too often, that right is compromised. That's why WHO has chosen "My health, my right" as the theme for World Health Day 2024.

It is a critical issue in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Our Region is home to 38% of all people in need of humanitarian aid globally.

Conflict and natural disasters are stopping people from getting the quality health care they need.

Urgent action is vital to reduce health inequities, safeguard human rights and prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable.

We are a long way from achieving universal health coverage and other health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

To ensure that everyone can live the healthiest possible life, countries need to invest in strong, inclusive health systems.

And they need to tackle the underlying determinants of health such as poverty, gender inequality and climate change.

WHO will continue working with countries to promote equitable health care and support the health workforce. We want to see a Region where every single person can attain the highest possible standard of health and well-being.

On World Health Day, I call on governments, health care professionals and other partners to recommit to our shared mission.

Together, let us make the right to health a reality for everyone in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

