

Health emergency in Lebanon

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, having considered the reports by the Director-General;¹ recalling the Constitution of the World Health Organization, which affirms the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being; noting with grave concern the health emergency in Lebanon resulting from ongoing and recently intensified hostilities, including the significant toll on civilians in terms of loss of life, injuries and broader physical and mental health consequences; expressing deep concern at the humanitarian consequences of the situation, including increased vulnerability of civilian populations and heightened pressure on already strained health services; alarmed by the impact of the ongoing war on the Lebanese health systems, including attacks on health facilities and health workers, and the closure of dozens of primary healthcare centres and hospitals; concerned about the severe impact on health service delivery and the disruption of essential health services, including primary healthcare, emergency and trauma care, maternal and child health services, immunization and the management of noncommunicable diseases, in addition to the constraints in the availability of essential medicines and medical supplies; recognizing the increased demand for health services for internally displaced persons and the need to ensure uninterrupted service delivery in both affected and host communities; highlighting the urgent need for expanded mental health and psychosocial support services for affected populations and health personnel, including those exposed to trauma and prolonged insecurity; reaffirming the obligation of all parties to respect and protect healthcare in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Decided:

- (1) to call for the full protection of healthcare in Lebanon, including patients, health personnel, facilities and transport, and for ensuring safe and unhindered access to essential health services for all populations in need;
- (2) to call upon Member States and partners to provide timely, flexible and predictable financial and technical support to sustain the Lebanese health system;
- (3) to request the Director-General:
 - (a) to scale up WHO's operational response in Lebanon, including medications, medical supplies and essential health services;

¹ Documents A79/9 and A79/9 Add.1.

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- (b) to monitor and document disruptions affecting health service delivery in Lebanon, including impacts on health facilities, the health workforce and access to care, in line with WHO mechanisms, in cooperation with the relevant Lebanese authorities and in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health;
 - (c) to continue providing technical assistance to strengthen health system resilience in Lebanon, including emergency preparedness and response capacities;
 - (4) to remain actively engaged in the matter.

Sixth plenary meeting, 22 May 2026
A79/VR/6
