
Public health implications of the unprovoked attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran on civilians and essential civilian infrastructure in Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report by the Director-General;¹

Noting the role of WHO, within its mandate, as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, and recalling the Constitution of the World Health Organization, including its principles relating to the health of all peoples and international cooperation in health;

Recalling the obligations of all Member States under the Charter of the United Nations to settle international disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State;

Recalling also the applicable rules of international human rights law, including the right to life and the right to security of persons, and the applicable rules of international humanitarian law, emphasizing the obligation of all parties to armed conflict to respect and protect civilians and civilian objects, including medical personnel, healthcare facilities and objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population;

Recognizing that health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and reaffirming the human right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

Recalling United Nations Security Council resolution 2817 (2026), which condemns attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran targeting civilian objects and highlights their implications for international peace and security;

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 61/1 (2026) on the human rights implications of the attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran against Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan, which condemns the human rights violations resulting from attacks targeting civilians and critical civilian infrastructure, including airports, ports, energy facilities, desalination plants, residential areas and objects necessary for food production and distribution,

¹ Document A79/32 (oral update).

and which further recognizes that disrupted shipping flows through the Strait of Hormuz affect the supply of food, fertilizers, and the availability of essential health commodities on which populations depend;

Recalling in this regard United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/292 (2010), which recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights, and Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 (2010), which affirms that the right to safe drinking water is inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as the right to life and human dignity;

Recalling also relevant World Health Assembly resolutions, including resolutions WHA64.24 (2011), WHA72.7 (2019) and WHA74.16 (2021), which underscore the critical importance of access to safe water as a fundamental determinant of health and as essential infrastructure for the functioning and resilience of health systems;

Recalling also United Nations Security Council resolution 2573 (2021), which expresses concern that the destruction of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population can reduce or deprive civilians of access to healthcare, water, sanitation and energy;

Recalling the right to free navigation in international waters and sea lanes and underscoring the importance of maritime security in the Gulf region for global stability;²

Recalling the International Health Regulations (2005), which emphasize the need to avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade, including maritime navigation, while protecting public health;

Acknowledging that the functioning of health facilities depends critically on the reliable operation of interconnected systems, including water, energy and supply chains, for supporting life-saving equipment, intensive care, surgical procedures, diagnostic systems and cold-chain maintenance for vaccines and biological products;

Recognizing that international maritime routes, air transport systems and port operations constitute essential lifelines for the timely and equitable delivery of medicines, vaccines, medical products and other health commodities, as well as food and fuel, necessary for the functioning of health systems;

Recognizing that the Strait of Hormuz constitutes a critical lifeline for the Arab Gulf Countries, including for the transport of essential health supplies, and that disruptions to maritime navigation through the Strait may affect the continuity of health services and access to essential medical products;

Recognizing that a significant portion of global energy supplies, including oil and natural gas, passes through the Strait of Hormuz, the disruption of which may affect global energy flows, and in turn, increase operating costs and financial burden on health systems globally, with direct implications on the resilience of health systems and sustainability of health financing;

² United Nations Security Council resolution 552 (1984).

Deeply concerned about civilian casualties resulting from the Iranian attacks against Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan, including deaths and injuries among children, as well as disruptions to health services, including the suspension or delay of surgical procedures;

Deeply concerned about the mental health and psychosocial consequences of the Iranian attacks against the populations in Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan;

Expressing concern about the reported suspension of regional cooperation programmes on organ transplantation among Gulf Cooperation Council Member States, and the resulting impact on access to life-saving transplant services;

Expressing concern that disruptions to water production systems, including desalination plants, may lead to shortages of safe drinking water, thereby increasing the risk of communicable diseases and undermining hygiene, sanitation and infection prevention and control measures;

Expressing concern that damage to, or disruption of, energy infrastructure may lead to electricity interruptions, thereby compromising the safety and continuity of health services, including for patients receiving care outside healthcare settings, and those dependent on home-based medical devices such as oxygen concentrators, ventilators, infusion pumps and home dialysis equipment;

Expressing concern that disruptions affecting critical maritime routes and energy flows, including through the Strait of Hormuz, have broader systemic implications for global health systems, particularly through their impact on the availability, accessibility and affordability of essential health commodities;

Recalling the role of WHO in supporting emergency logistics and response operations, including through the WHO Hub for Global Health Emergencies Logistics, particularly in contexts affected by disruptions to transport and supply chains;

Reaffirming the constitutional role of WHO as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, and its responsibility to support Member States in addressing the public health implications of disruptions to essential services,

1. CONDEMNS in the strongest terms the attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran against civilians and civilian objects, including objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan, which have resulted in deaths and injuries among civilians, including children, and damage to essential health infrastructure, including medical and healthcare facilities, water desalination plants, energy facilities, airports and ports;
2. DEPLORES the impact of these attacks on health, including mental health and psychosocial well-being;
3. CALLS UPON Member States to take appropriate measures, consistent with applicable international law, to safeguard public health, ensure health system continuity and protect population well-being, including through strengthening preparedness, risk mitigation and contingency planning, protecting infrastructure essential to water, energy and supply systems, and addressing ongoing disruptions to maritime navigation and international trade routes, including through the Strait of Hormuz, in order to safeguard global health supply chains and ensure the availability, accessibility and safe transport of essential health commodities;

4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to conduct a comprehensive global assessment on the availability, accessibility and affordability of health services, medicines, vaccines and essential health commodities, including the implications for progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, arising from disruptions to critical maritime routes and the resulting increases in energy and transport costs, in consultation and cooperation with Member States, as appropriate, and to report thereon to the Eightieth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 160th session;
- (2) to report, within the context of WHO's work in health emergencies, including through relevant WHO hubs, on the impact of the Islamic Republic of Iran's attacks on the mental health of the populations of affected countries, as well as on the impact of disruptions to supply chains, and delays and impediments in the timely delivery of humanitarian medical supplies, including in conflicts and humanitarian settings, and to submit a report on these findings to the Eightieth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 160th session;
- (3) to develop evidence-based recommendations and provide technical guidance, as appropriate, to strengthen the resilience of health systems and global health supply chains, including preparedness for disruptions affecting essential infrastructure, in support of universal health coverage;

5. CALLS UPON Member States and the international community to strengthen cooperation to safeguard the continuity, availability, accessibility and affordability of essential health commodities, including medicines, vaccines and diagnostic technologies, and to enhance the resilience of global health supply chains, in support of global health security and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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