

EMRO Commission on Social Determinants of Health

World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO/EMRO) is convening a Commission on Social Determinants of Health (SDH) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The Commission is jointly being convened by WHO/EMRO, the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (AHPSR) and the Institute for Health Equity at the University College London (IHE/UCL). Professor Sir Michael Marmot will chair this Commission. The Commission aims to establish a comprehensive evidence base of health inequalities in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the factors which drive such inequalities; and assess practical ways of addressing these within the context of the Member States of the Region, including those facing conflict and emergencies. The Commission will work over a period of one year: from October 2019 to September 2020. There will be three meetings held in November 2019, April and July 2020, together with virtual meetings. A final report will be prepared, to be published by WHO/EMRO and presented to EMR Regional Committee.

Specifically, the Commission will:

-  Analyze and present existing data on health inequalities and social determinants of health, including conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean context;
-  Document actions being taken by international organizations, governments, NGOs, civil society and communities to address these issues;
-  Build knowledge and evidence for action and offer practical, specific recommendations to reduce health inequalities;
-  Provide strategic guidance on developing plans for equity including governance and monitoring systems for health equity; and
-  Identify opportunities to build capacity through research and evaluation of health inequities, and programs for action; and establish knowledge networks across the Eastern Mediterranean Region.



WHO Global and Regional strategic visions and programmes

Thirteenth General Programme of Work

WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13) 2019-2023 is firmly based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The mission is to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable. GPW 13 sets three global targets to be achieved in five years:

- Advancing universal health coverage – 1 billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage,
- Addressing health emergencies – 1 billion more people better protected from health emergencies,
- Promoting healthier populations – 1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being.

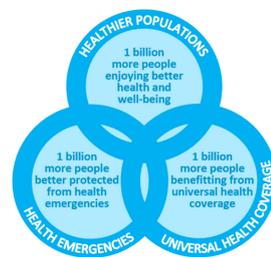
EMR Vision 2023

Expanding universal health coverage by building equitable, resilient health systems based on primary health care, a people-centred approach and quality and safe services; and focusing on implementing the recommendations of the Salalah Declaration on Universal Health Coverage of 2018; by ensuring that at least 100 million more people benefit from universal health coverage by 2023.

Addressing health emergencies through forecasting, comprehensive preparedness, prompt response and well-planned recovery guided by the humanitarian, development and peace nexus; and focusing on ensuring access to health services during emergencies, initiating early recovery and promoting the transition to health and fostering peace.

Promoting healthier populations by advocating for Health in All Policies, multisectoral action, community engagement and strategic partnerships with focus on addressing the social and economic determinants of health across the life course, addressing risk factors for health including NCDs and injuries, and leaving no one behind.

Making transformative changes in WHO by reforming the Organization's business models, systems and culture in the Region to ensure that it is fit for business, accountable and a dynamic catalyst in health; by focusing on creating an enabling working environment; strengthening and streamlining strategic communications as a core function; by increasing the availability and sustainability of financial resources for WHO-supported health programmes in the Region; by optimizing the use of those resources, and strengthening WHO's country presence.



Vision 2023
Eastern Mediterranean Region



Prof Sir Michael Marmot

is currently the Director of the Institute of Health Equity and Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London. Sir Michael has led a research group on health inequalities for the past 40 years. He chairs the Department of Health Scientific Reference Group on tackling health inequalities. He was a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution for six years and is an honorary fellow of the British Academy.



Dr Rowaida Al-Maaitah

Professor at the Department of Community and Mental Health Nursing at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). Dr Al-Maaitah has held numerous key positions including Senator in the Upper House of the Jordanian Parliament, Minister for Government Performance and Minister of Social Development.



Dr David Bishai

Physician and leading health economist. He is a Professor in the Johns Hopkins University, Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health. He publishes regularly in Health Economics and Journal of Health Economics. He is president of the International Health Economic Association.



Dr Abdurizak Ahmed Dalmar

He is an ophthalmologist, and holds a Ph.D from University College London. He works as visiting Senior Lecturer of Community Ophthalmology and Medical Statistics at Benadir University Medical College. He is co-founder and chairman of "first Somalia" focused on disaster resilience.



Prof. Rajae El Aouad

is currently Director of Clinical Laboratory. She is Resident Member of the Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Technology (HIIAST) and a Member of the Steering Committee of the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES). She holds a Doctorate of Medical Studies, a Master of Sciences and a Master of Health Policy and Management.



Dr Assad Hafeez

Executive Director of the Health Services Academy, a public health institution mandated by the Government of Pakistan. He is the Dean of Faculty of Medicine in Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, and Director General of Health in the Federal Ministry of Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Islamabad.



Professor Senait Fisseha

Reproductive endocrinologist, infertility specialist, and a global leader in expanding access to reproductive health services. She has published more than 50 scholarly articles and serves on the board of the Ethio-American Doctors Group.



Dr Stephen Gloyd

Family practice physician and long-time Professor of Global Health and Health Services at the University of Washington. Dr Gloyd is Executive Director of Health Alliance International, a no-profit organization that provides support to Ministries of Health in Mozambique, East Timor, Ivory Coast, and Sudan.



Professor Bagher Larijani

Professor of Endocrinology at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. He is Deputy Minister of Medical Education, founding Director-General and Chief scientific officer of Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Institute, and Acting Director of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine Research Center.



Dr Salwa Najjab

Director of the Juzoor Foundation for Health & Social Development, a Palestinian NGO that works to promote health as a basic human right. Leading expert in the areas of Public Health, Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health, Health and Social Development, Women's Health Rights, Family Planning.



Dr Iman Nuwayhid

Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon. He is American Board Certified in Occupational Medicine and an elected fellow to the Collegium Ramazzini. He currently co-chairs "The Lancet-AUB Commission on Syria: Health in Conflict".



Dr Hoda Rashad

Professor and Director of the Social Research Center at The American University in Cairo. She is a resource person and consultant to a number of national and international organizations, including the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity.



Prof K. Srinath Reddy

President of Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). He works as Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at Harvard (2014-2023). He is also an Adjunct Professor of the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University and Honorary Professor of Medicine at the University of Sydney.



Dr Anita Zaidi

She is the Director of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Programs on Vaccine Development, Surveillance, and Enteric and Diarrheal Diseases, as well as a Co-Director of the Maternal, Newborn & Child Health Discovery & Tools program. She has published more than two hundred research papers.