Health in the midst of HUMANITARIAN CRISSES

Today, more than half a billion people live in fragile and conflict-affected situations. In addition to traditional emergency healthcare services, such as war surgery and care for infectious diseases, many people affected by humanitarian crises require access to care for chronic conditions, also known as non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Addressing the chronic nature of these diseases requires continuity of care, which can be challenging to ensure in humanitarian crises, where there are often disruptions in services or a complete collapse of healthcare systems.

People with NCDs are among the most vulnerable groups in these settings, with many suffering from complications that can be controlled under normal circumstances, but which are disabling and even life-threatening without treatment.

The Sustainable Development Goals call on all countries to achieve a 30% reduction in deaths from NCDs among those aged 30–70 by 2030. This cannot be achieved without a comprehensive approach to addressing NCDs in humanitarian crises.

REFERENCES:
Programme

MODERATOR
PABLO PEREL
Co-Director of the Centre for Global Chronic Conditions, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

OPENING REMARKS
MORTEN JESPERSEN
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations Office, Geneva

PANEL DISCUSSION

Question 1:
What needs are there for integrating NCD care into the humanitarian health response, how can this be done and what are the experiences so far?

Question 2:
Can multi-stakeholder partnerships be part of the solution? Views and experiences.

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CLOSING REMARKS
YVES DACCORD
Director-General, ICRC
**MORTEN JESPERSEN**
Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations Office, Geneva

Morten Jespersen has been the Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations Office in Geneva since 2018. He has been employed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1992, taking various positions in both Denmark and other countries, such as China, the United States and Nepal, before coming to Geneva. Mr Jespersen holds a Masters in Political Science and a postgraduate degree in East Asian Area Studies.

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**H.E. FEROZUDDIN FEROZ**
Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan

H.E. Dr Ferozuddin Feroz has held the position of Minister of Public Health for the Afghan government since 2015. H.E. Dr Feroz first joined the Afghan government in 2002 as Deputy Minister of Policy and Planning. In this role, he was essential in laying sound foundations for Afghanistan’s current health system. Between 2005 and 2014, H.E. Dr Feroz did consultancy work in many areas for the World Bank, the UN States Agency for International Development, USAID and DFID. In addition, he founded an NGO, the Governance Institute – Afghanistan. H.E. Dr Feroz originally completed his medical studies at the Medical Faculty of Kabul University and later finished a specialist degree in general surgery by obtaining a diploma and an MSc in Public Health Management from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK and an MBA from the International Institute of Health Management Research in Jaipur, India.

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**PABLO PEREL**
Co-Director of the Centre for Global Chronic Conditions, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Professor Pablo Perel, MD, MSc, PhD, is a cardiologist and epidemiologist with expertise in clinical trials, prognosis research, systematic reviews and implementation research. He trained in internal medicine and cardiology in Argentina and did a MSc and PhD in Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK, where he is now the Co-Director of the Centre for Global Chronic Conditions. His main areas of teaching are NCDs, clinical trials, systematic reviews and prognostic research. He has a particular interest in implementation research (including eHealth) on global cardiovascular diseases. He is also Deputy Editor at the Global Heart Journal.

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**RENMINGHUI**
Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage, Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO

Dr Ren Minghui serves as Assistant Director-General for Universal Health Coverage, Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases at WHO headquarters. In this role, he oversees a complex portfolio of technical programmes covering HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, noncommunicable diseases, mental health and substance use. He currently represents WHO on the boards of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, UNAIDS, and UNITAID. Prior to his appointment as Assistant Director-General, he spent nearly 30 years working in public health, including as Director-General for International Cooperation at the National Health and Family Planning Commission of the People’s Republic of China. In China, his work initially focused on health policy and health reform, and later on international health cooperation and global health governance. Dr Ren is a medical doctor and holds a Masters in Public Health and a PhD in Social Medicine and Health.

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**ESPERANZA MARTINEZ**
Head of Health, ICRC

Dr Esperanza Martinez is the Head of Health for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). She is responsible for overseeing the delivery of humanitarian health services to populations affected by war and violence in more than 80 countries around the world.

She is a medical doctor and general surgeon, trained in Colombia, and specialised in International Public Health and Health Management in Australia. Her experience includes more than 10 years of field work in conflict-affected countries as well as work with UN agencies, government bodies and the private sector.

@ICRC
Dr Githinji Gitahi is the CEO of Amref Health and Co-Chair of the UHC2030 WHO and World Bank Initiative for achievement of UHC by 2030. Until his appointment at Amref Health Africa, Dr Gitahi was the VP and Regional Director for Africa of Smile Train, a global cleft charity. As a medical doctor, he has worked both in the private and public sectors. Dr Gitahi is also a member of the Private Sector Advisory Board of Africa CDC and the WHO’s Community Health Worker Hub. He is a member of the Board of Directors of The Standard Group and holds board member positions across Amref Health Africa offices in Africa. He has a MD from the University of Nairobi and a Masters in Business Administration from the United States International University, both in Kenya.

**HEIKO HERING**

Senior Public Health Officer, UNHCR

Heiko Hering is the Senior Public Health Officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its headquarters in Geneva. He works in a team that provides technical and operational support to refugee operations worldwide and is engaged at global level with the global humanitarian health community to advance evidence and programming in humanitarian settings. Mr Hering’s work covers a wide range of emerging public health priorities, including health information systems, inclusion strategies and health financing for the integration of refugees into national health systems, medicines management, malaria prevention and control, and non-communicable diseases. The latter is where UNHCR has been pivotal in bringing together operational agencies, academia and subject-matter experts to work on operationalising NCD care in humanitarian health interventions. Before joining UNHCR in 2007, Mr Hering worked for Médecins Sans Frontières in several emergencies. He started his international career in Bosnia in the mid-1990s. Mr Hering is a public health specialist with a degree in nursing and a Masters in Public Health.

**SORAYA RAMOUL**

Director, Global Access to Care, Novo Nordisk

Soraya Ramoul is Director of Global Access to Care at Novo Nordisk. She drives the Novo Nordisk strategy for access to healthcare and related programmes. She was previously Senior Advisor on Corporate Responsibility, where she was among other things responsible for the company’s human rights programme. Prior to her time at Novo Nordisk, Soraya Ramoul worked as legal advisor to various global businesses on human rights and business issues. Soraya Ramoul holds a postgraduate degree in International Law from France. She joined Novo Nordisk in 2001.

**ERNEST MASSIAH**

Health Manager – Middle East & North Africa, World Bank

Ernest Massiah has held the position of Health Manager – Middle East & North Africa at the World Bank since July 2015. Previously, he was Director of the Regional Support Team for the Caribbean at UNAIDS. During this time, he provided support to countries in the region to accelerate the process of achieving the targets of the 2011 UNGA Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS. Mr Massiah has also worked for more than 10 years with the Inter-American Development Bank as the lead advisor on HIV and disability. Mr Massiah holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Waterloo, Canada, an MSc in Social Psychology from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK and an ScD in Public Health from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, US.

**YVES DACCORD**

Director-General, ICRC

Yves Daccord has been the Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since 2010. Mr Daccord is a former journalist, TV producer and international relations expert, but joined the ICRC in 1992 to run humanitarian operations in various challenging contexts of armed conflict, including Israel, Sudan, Yemen, Chechnya and Georgia. Before becoming Director-General, Mr Daccord held the positions of Head of Communications Division and Director of Communications. Mr Daccord has received the honours of being appointed to the chair, and as a member of several committees and advisory groups in relation to humanitarian responses. He holds a BA in political science and international relations, and pursued postgraduate training as a broadcast journalist.

**GITHINJI GITAHI**

Global CEO, of Amref Health Africa and Co-chair of the Steering Committee of UHC2030

Dr Githinji Gitahi is the CEO of Amref Health and Co-Chair of the UHC2030 WHO and World Bank Initiative for achievement of UHC by 2030. Until his