FORUM: World Health Assembly

QUESTION OF: Measures to Provide Medical Services in Conflict Zones

MAIN SUBMITTER: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

CO-SUBMITTERS: Chad, Poland, Egypt, Canada, Japan, Chile, Denmark, United Kingdom, Niger, Finland

THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY,

*Aware of* the fact that there are still 32 countries which are having conflict in their regions currently in 2023,

*Reaffirming* the principles of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, which require that all parties to an armed conflict respect and protect medical personnel and facilities,

*Acknowledging* the critical role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in promoting and facilitating healthcare services in conflict-affected areas,

*Recognizing* the serious humanitarian consequences of armed conflict against civilians, including access to essential healthcare services, and healthcare delivery sites located in conflict zones, surrounded by threats, are very difficult to maintain in those areas,

*Emphasizing* that humanitarian organizations and healthcare workers must be able to access safely without interference in order to provide assistance and healthcare to those in need, with only 70% of the supplies needed and 30% of the manpower needed in the conflict zone,

*Noting* that in addition to the immediate damages of conflict, it also has a major effect on those already living with specific long-term healthcare needs, such as [non-communicable diseases (NCDs)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases),

*Deeply concerned* that health care centers are targeted by airstrikes and subjected to looting and violence that destroys health infrastructure, which prevents access to urgently needed surgical supplies, creates shortages of medicines and healthcare professionals, places a strain on financial resources, and leaves patients and professionals in danger,

1. Call upon member states to proactively and wholeheartedly support and facilitate the equitable and efficient allocation of essential medical resources to areas plagued by conflict, exhibiting a profound commitment to alleviating the dire healthcare needs of vulnerable populations in these regions, through ways such as but not limited to:
2. Explaining accurately what kind of medical services and what medical supplies are needed in the conflict zone,
3. Supporting a comprehensive range of medical provisions, services, and personnel, including but not limited to pharmaceuticals, healthcare workers, medical supplies, and humanitarian aid specifically through:
   1. Supporting private medical aid organizations such as’Doctors without Borders’ and ICRC (International Committe of the Red Cross),
   2. Supporting the medical needs with experts who are certified by the WHO (World Health Organization);
4. Prohibits acts of violence and attacks against the wounded and sick, who needs medical service and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, including their ways of transport and equipment, also including hospitals and other medical facilities in such ways but not limited to:
   1. Establishing humanitarian organizations which are Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that support the human rights of the people who are war refugees and working in those conflict zones, specifically on:
      1. Ensuring the benefit of individuals and groups,
      2. Protecting human rights for people who are wounded sick or people who work for medical facilities,
   2. Creating laws that are unfavorable for those attacks or threaten people needing medical service and people working for medical service, with the exception when one is attacking people for his or her own protection;
5. Demandsthat all countries except warring states in armed conflicts facilitate safe and unimpeded passage for medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties to all people in need, consistent with international humanitarian law such as but not limited to:
   1. Providing certain amount of army as support to protect the medical personnel,
   2. Supporting economically based on their economic capacity,
   3. Signing an international medical staff protection agreement;
6. Inform all Member States to guide their citizens and armed forces in international humanitarian law and the situation in conflict zones, and to stop and prevent violence, attacks, and threats against the injured and the sick under international humanitarian law through ways such as:
   1. Educating all citizens periodically in humanitarian laws through:
      1. Social media platforms such as digital capabilities, videos, and texts,
      2. Giving public advertisements on humanitarian law to public places such as banners and electronic boards,
   2. Increasing public service advertising on human rights lost in conflict zones;
7. Requests all nations to follow and ratify the international humanitarian law (IHL), which lays out the responsibilities of states and non-state armed groups during an armed conflict:
   1. Applying the humanitarian law to all citizens without discriminatory biases,
   2. Allowing nations in conflict zones to receive medical services without interference by banning:
      1. The attack of medical personnel physically such as shooting guns and bombing,
      2. The threatening of medical personnel by their own privacy such as families;
8. Encourages all member states to ensure their armed forces and security forces, within their respective competencies under their own law, make or, where relevant, continue their efforts to integrate practical measures for the protection of the wounded and sick and medical services into the planning and conduct of their operations:
   1. Funding weekly for medical services in conflict zones and using it for protecting medical personnel, specifically through ways such as but not limited to:
      1. Receiving funding from organizations including The Physicians foundation, Med share, Doctors Worldwide,
      2. Receiving help from the WHO to monitor the current situation of funding money to medical staff,
   2. Supporting medical equipment in such medical personnel can get the service they need in aspects of:
      1. The treating environment,
      2. Surgery equipment,
      3. Well preserved medicine;
9. Further requests the Secretary-General, in conferring with its prerogatives under the Charter of the United Nations, to open a meeting to discuss the common issue within conflict zones being inadequate medical services and ways to deal with this issue in all conflict zones in which the delivery of medical assistance to populations in need is being obstructed by parties to the armed conflict:
10. Recommending parties to continue the peace and solve the sensitive problem, with meetings held once every 6 months,
11. Suggesting the countries which have conflict recently or currently to attend the meeting,
12. Having discussions about means to increase the efficiency of sending medical services and supplies during physical conflict areas through means such as:
    1. Protecting medical personnel in conflict region,
    2. Supporting the medical personnel in economical ways.