

AFR/RC40/R12: Assistance to countries hosting refugees and displaced persons

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the Regional Director's report (AFR/RC40/8 Rev. 1) on emergency preparedness and response in respect of natural disasters and epidemics in Africa, and considering the similar consequences arising from situations of conflict;

Acknowledging the efforts made by the international aid and relief agencies and the governments which are supporting large refugee populations, in providing effective emergency requirements for the refugees;

Noting the negative impact that an influx of refugees has on the economy, the health sector and the health development programmes of those governments;

Considering the adverse effects that such influxes of displaced persons have on the health services, especially on district health care systems in those districts hosting refugees and displaced persons;

1. THANKS the Regional Director for the report on emergency preparedness and response;
2. THANKS the Member States who have received refugees and displaced persons, for their efforts to provide them with health care;
3. URGES Member States and international organizations to support the host governments' efforts to provide health care to the refugees and displaced persons;
4. CALLS upon the Member States and international organizations according to their capabilities to provide necessary support to national health programmes which have been affected by the impact of refugees on the health sector;
5. REQUESTS the Regional Director;
 - (i) to make use of regional funds from the WHO Regular Budget to help governments overcome the health problems especially in districts currently hosting refugees and displaced persons;
 - (ii) to assist in mobilizing financial, material and technical resources from donor agencies and governments to strengthen the health services of those governments hosting refugees and displaced persons;
 - (iii) to report to the forty-second session of the Regional Committee for Africa on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

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