



التحالف الإقليمي للأمراض غير السارية إقليم الشرق الأوسط  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN NCD ALLIANCE

## **Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance Statement on Provisional Agenda Item 3D**

### **Technical Paper : Addressing diabetes as a public health challenge in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean**

#### **Acknowledging the lived experiences of People living with Diabetes in the Region**

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates

The Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance supports EMRO for its leadership in addressing NCD prevention and control in the Region. Furthermore, we welcome the adoption of the WHO resolution (WHA74.4) to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases by strengthening the prevention and control of diabetes and the launch of the WHO Global Diabetes Compact.

Diabetes is a priority public health issue with increased morbidity, mortality and disability in EMR. (1)

The Region has one of the highest prevalence of diabetes worldwide (2). In addition, more than half of all deaths from diabetes in the Region occurred in people under 60 years. (2)

On an individual level, approximate 55 million adults aged 20–79 years are living with diabetes in the Region, representing 13% of the adult population aged 20-79 years. With no effective action, the number of people living with diabetes ( children and adults) will continue to rise in the Region. (1,2)

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, most people living with diabetes are experiencing significant disruptions in healthcare services, which puts them at a higher risk of diabetes complications and severe COVID- 19 complications. In addition, evidence from the Region has shown that the pandemic has negatively affected the livelihoods and well-being of all people living with diabetes, in particular, refugees and other vulnerable groups. Threatens investment in Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goals.

Strengthen diabetes response; there is a need to understand the needs and challenges of people living with diabetes. Empowering them and supporting their engagements, alongside resilient and robust health systems to treat people living with NCDs/diabetes and their risk factors as the Region builds back better.

To this end, the Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance urge countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to :

- Endorse the Regional Framework for Action on the prevention and control of diabetes and adopt the resolution.
- Develop time-bound targets and indicators to measure progress.
- Integrate diabetes services into the COVID-19 pandemic response and beyond.
- Strengthen health services and primary care services and involve the community in decision-making.
- Prioritizing diabetes prevention as an essential element for sustainable development, addressing conflicts of interest and hold all sectors accountable for progress.
- The need to overcome the stigma associated with diabetes, acknowledging the lived experiences of PLWNCDs/ diabetes and their right to health.
- Ensure accountability to populations, and address the needs and challenges of people living with diabetes in the Region, particularly at-risk populations (e.g. displaced people and refugees).
- Strengthening government leadership and their critical coordinating roles to ensure the whole-of-society approach to diabetes care and meaningful involvement of people living with diabetes.

We thank you for your attention.

1. [https://www.diabetesatlas.org/upload/resources/material/20200302\\_133351\\_IDFATLAS9e-final-web.pdf](https://www.diabetesatlas.org/upload/resources/material/20200302_133351_IDFATLAS9e-final-web.pdf)
2. IDF DIABETES ATLAS 9th edition 2019 .