

# Humanity and hope in conflict

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**PallCHASE**

[www.pallchase.org](http://www.pallchase.org)



[www.cairdeas.org.uk](http://www.cairdeas.org.uk)  
[@CairdeasIPCT](https://twitter.com/CairdeasIPCT)



Suffering in illness and dying reminds us of the universal truth of our **mortality and humanity**. Palliative care is rooted in the recognition of our **common suffering** in illness and dying, **our compassionate response** to suffering, and our **shared humanity**. Fundamentally, **palliative care** seeks to **ease suffering** and **uphold dignity**



Coghlan R, Leng M, Shamieh O, Elessi K,  
Grant LLancet letter; Vol394 Oct 2019  
*Role for palliative care in advancing health in  
conflict settings*

# Palliative care; humanity and hope

- *Values based care; promoting dignity, relieving suffering, demonstrating compassion, fighting for justice*
- holistic care for those facing life limiting disease and their families
  - reducing suffering
  - improving quality of life
  - restoring dignity

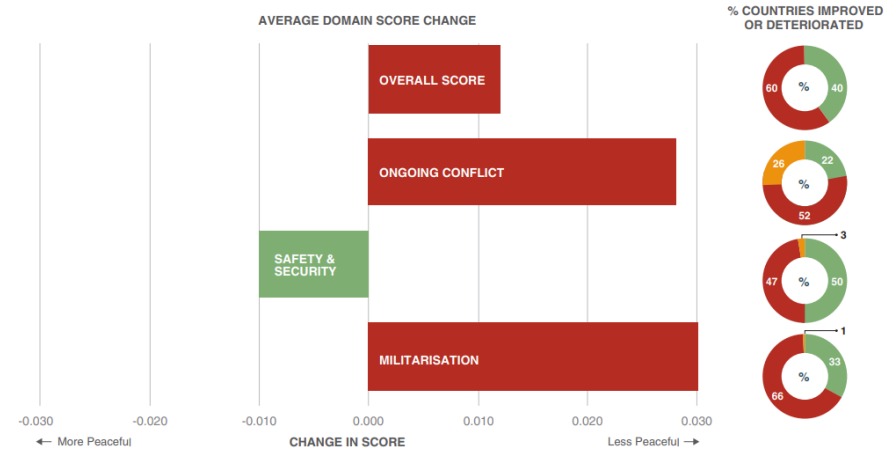


- Dear Mhoira...we need you and your colleagues reach to our scene of massacre to all world ...we trust you. **Please be our voice outside.** ‘**Gaza the beautiful city which you knew and loved it has become city of ghosts.** All its building, streets, schools, trees completely destroyed. We are without any life support, and supplies. Many people are still under the collapsed building ask for help, many health workers are killed while they offer their duties. **‘The world became blind and deaf to our suffering. We don't ask more than life with peace and dignity like all people over the world and be considered human being.**

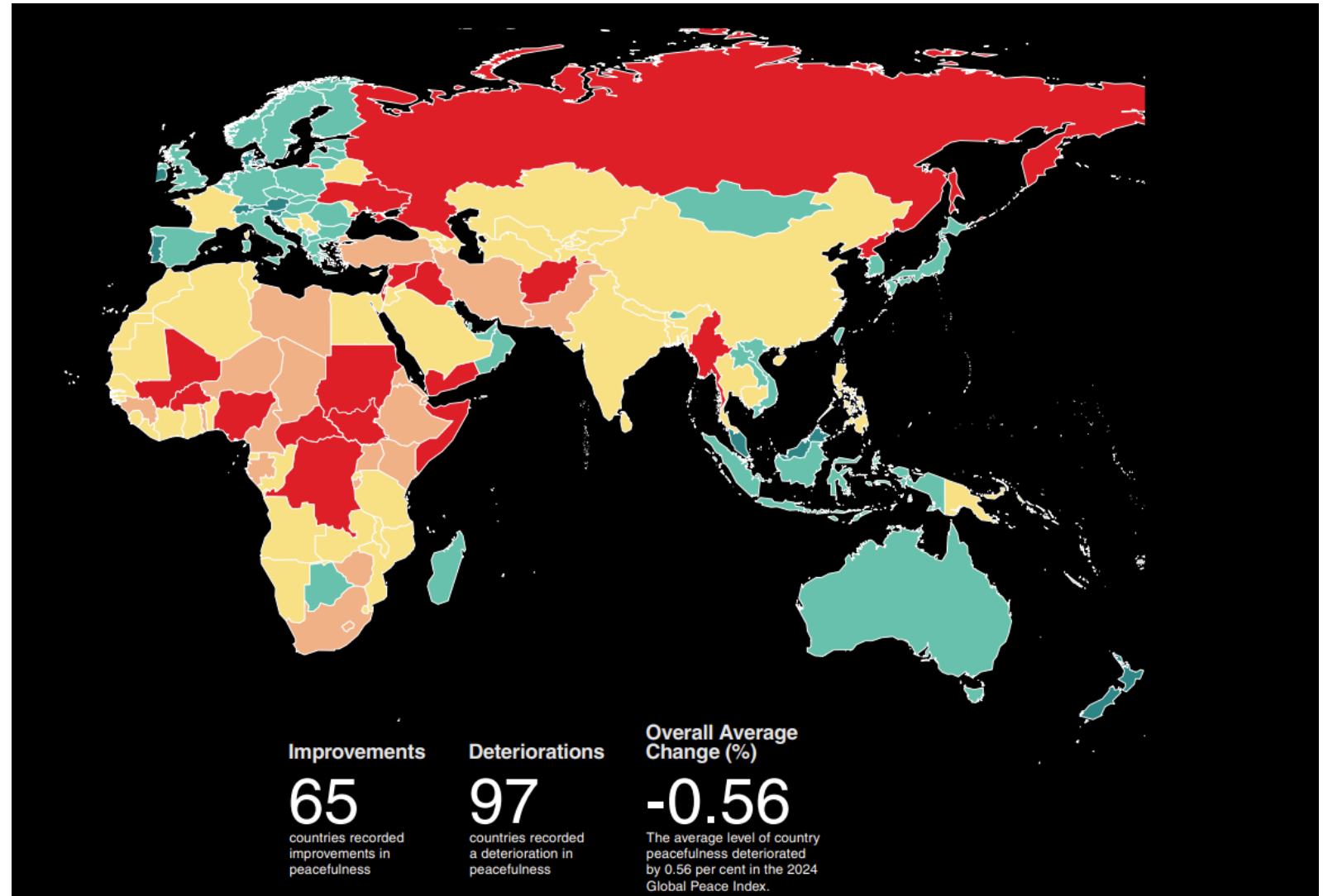


# Global Peace Index

- We live in troubled times

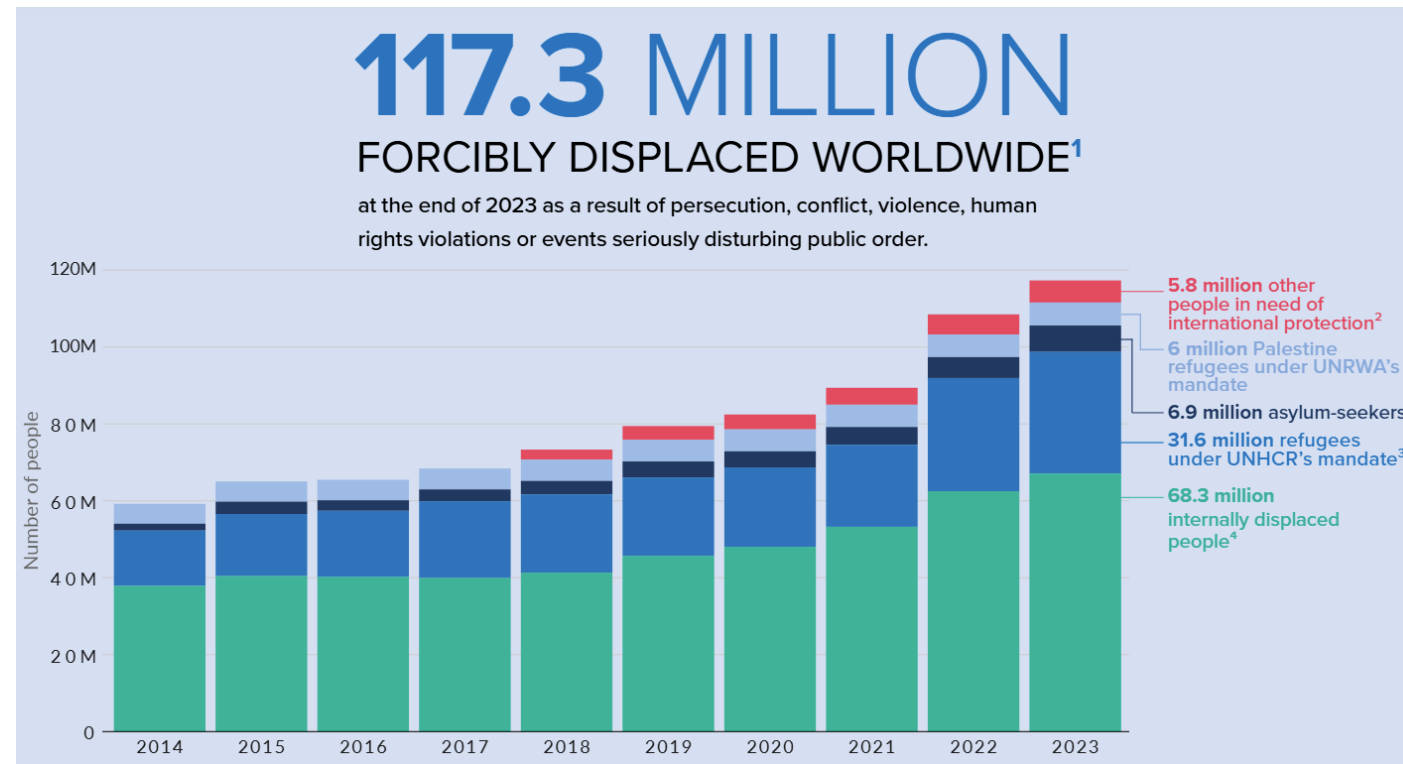


<https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/GPI-2024-web.pdf>



# People on the move; forcibly displaced

- 1 in 69 of earth's people
- 90% impacted by climate change
- 58% internally displaced
- 75% hosted in LMIC
- 69% in neighbouring countries
- asylum seekers 6.9million
- refugees >10 years displaced
- 43 emergency in 29 countries
  - *Sudan, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Palestine, Ukraine, DRC, Somalia, Haiti, Syria, Armenia*



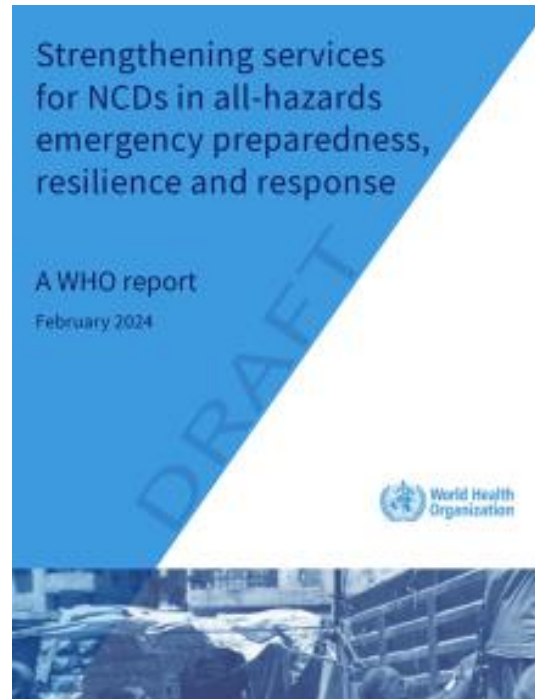
<https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2023>

<https://unfccc.int/news/conflict-and-climate>



# Addressing NCDs in Emergencies

- premature death due to NCDs 25.1% in fragile or conflict-affected contexts (cf 17.8%)
- 2-3x increase in stroke, heart attack after disaster
- very little access to palliative care and pain relief
- *prepare, respond, rebuild*



**Saving loves plus alleviating suffering**

# WHO NCD emergency medicines kit





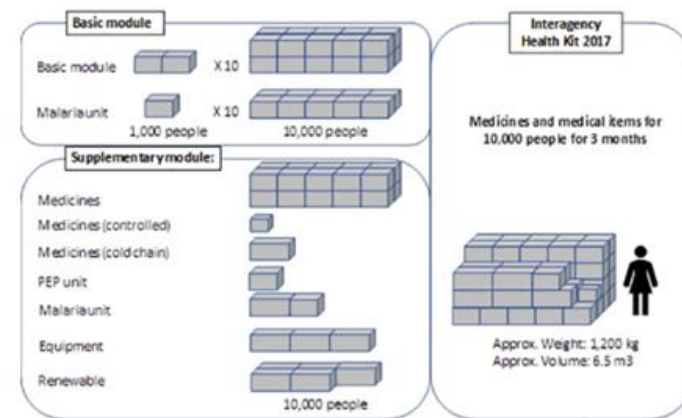
# WHO emergency kits; opiates

- NCD; no opiates and may not be best route
- Interagency, Paediatrics; have controlled medicines module but enough for 1 – 2 patients on step 3 for 1 month
- (Trauma v small)
- *need to do work to evaluate how much is needed and link to policy and capacity with follow up*

KMEDIEHKSMM2-A1 (IEHK 2017, SUPPLEMENTARY) MODULE CONTROLLED MEDICINES			
#	Item description		Qty
46	Ketamine inj 50mg/ml	10ml/vial	25
47	Diazepam 5mg	Tablet	240
48	Diazepam inj 5mg/ml	2ml/ampoule	200
49	Morphine, inj 10mg/ml	1ml /amp	50
50	Morphine 10 mg	tablet (immediate release)	200



Composition of the IEHK-2017



# Dignity & compassion in mass casualty triage

- Mass casualty events and triage

WHO Academy

Guide | MASS CASUALTY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN EMERGENCY UNITS

## Component 16. Triage

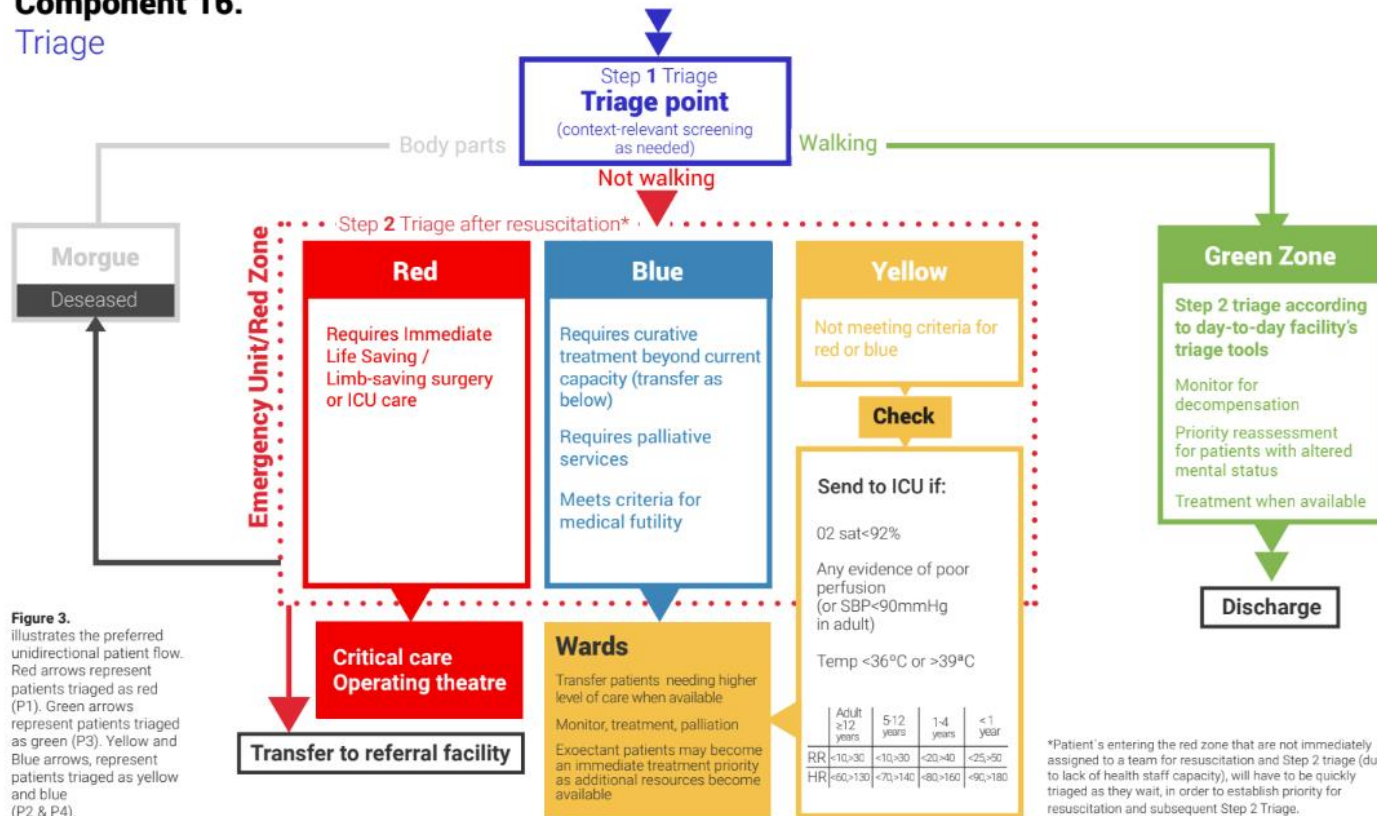
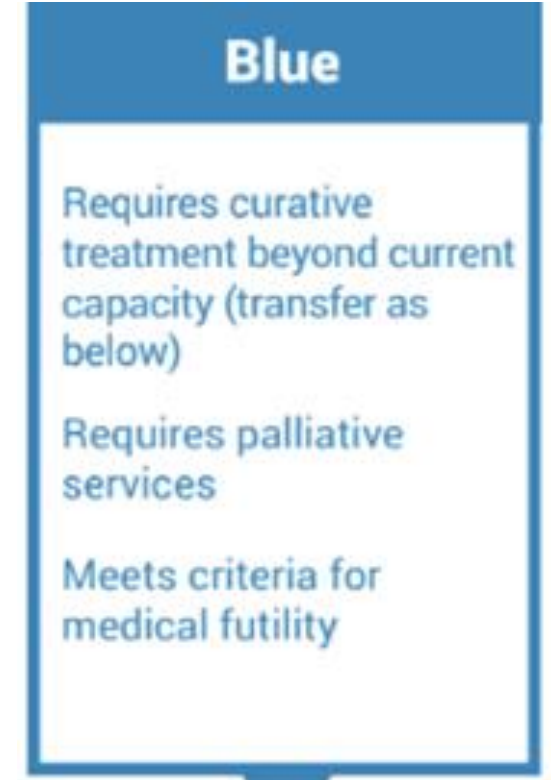


Figure 3. illustrates the preferred unidirectional patient flow. Red arrows represent patients triaged as red (P1). Green arrows represent patients triaged as green (P3). Yellow and Blue arrows, represent patients triaged as yellow and blue (P2 & P4).



\*Patient's entering the red zone that are not immediately assigned to a team for resuscitation and Step 2 triage (due to lack of health staff capacity), will have to be quickly triaged as they wait, in order to establish priority for resuscitation and subsequent Step 2 Triage.

# Humanity; humanitarian law

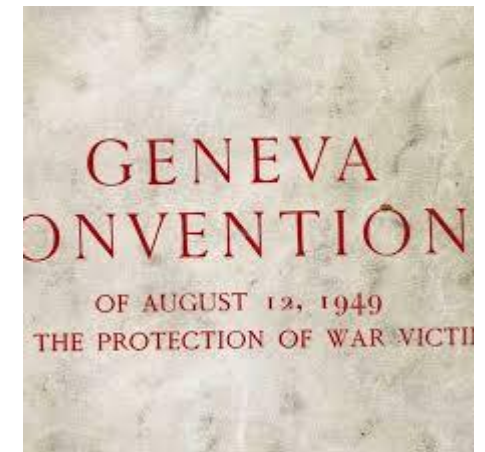
*‘This is how we will prove, tangibly, that **the lives of all human beings have equal value.***

*Karim Khan, Chief Prosecutor ICC*



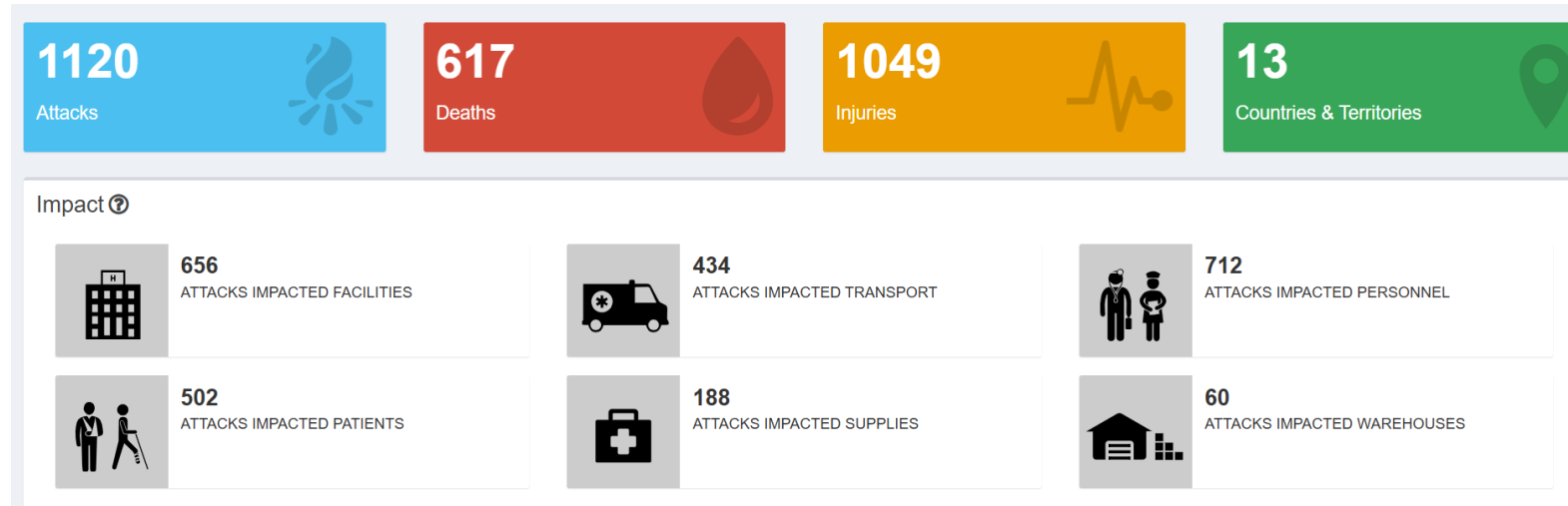
*‘to advocate and demand unequivocally that the Geneva Convention is fully respected—without permissive policies—in **protecting medical personnel, prohibiting attacks against medical units, and preserving the rights of sick people, including those diagnosed with cancer.***’ *Cancer Manifesto*

Ghebreyesus, Tedros Adhanom et al. The Lancet, Volume 404, Issue 10451, 427



# Health is under attack; global

- 2024



*‘This is a disease that has **grown and spread and affects many corners of the world**. We have reached a point where attacking **healthcare has become an object** of war and not just the accidental consequence of war and conflict. **Health is under attack**.’ Dr Micheal Ryan, Executive Director of Health Emergencies, WHO Exec Board 2023*

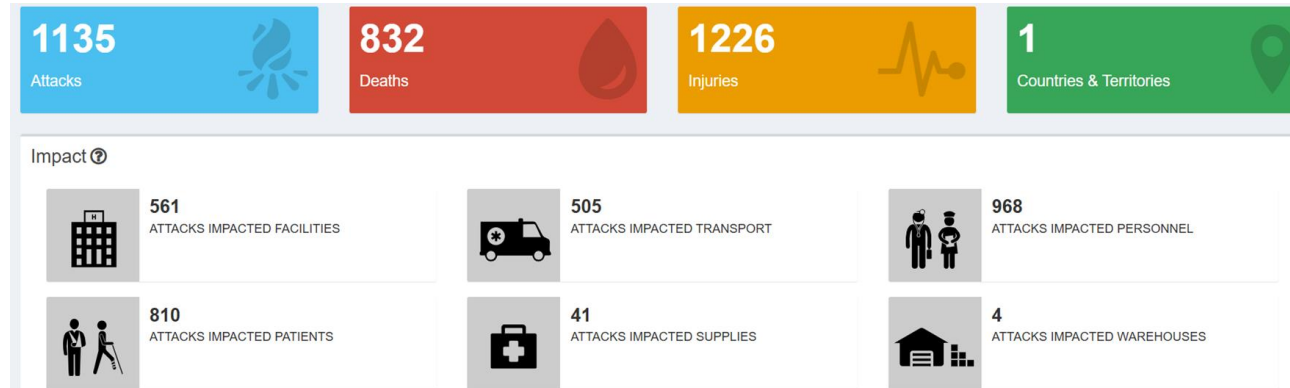
<https://extranet.who.int/sssa>

<https://www.who.int/activities/stopping-attacks-on-health-care>



# Health is under attack; Palestine

- 1 year



*Dr Khamis Elessi Lancet  
Volume 402, ISSUE 10412,  
P1522-1523, October 28,  
2023*

<https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/publications/reports/the-killing-detention-and-torture-of-healthcare-workers-in-gaza/>











- *‘And if I go, who treats my patients? **We are not animals. We have the right to receive proper healthcare.** So we can’t just leave. You think I went to medical school and for my postgraduate degrees for a total of 14 years so I think **only about my life and not my patients?** This is not the reason why I became a doctor.’* Dr Hamam Alloh

[https://www.democracynow.org/2023/10/31/israel\\_gaza\\_ground\\_invasion](https://www.democracynow.org/2023/10/31/israel_gaza_ground_invasion)

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2023/10/20/israel-gaza-al-ahli-arab-hospital-bombing-palliative-care/>





# Hope



*'Looking after one another  
Holding our otherness and  
togetherness  
Remaking life with the  
ethics of love'*

Khawla Badwan

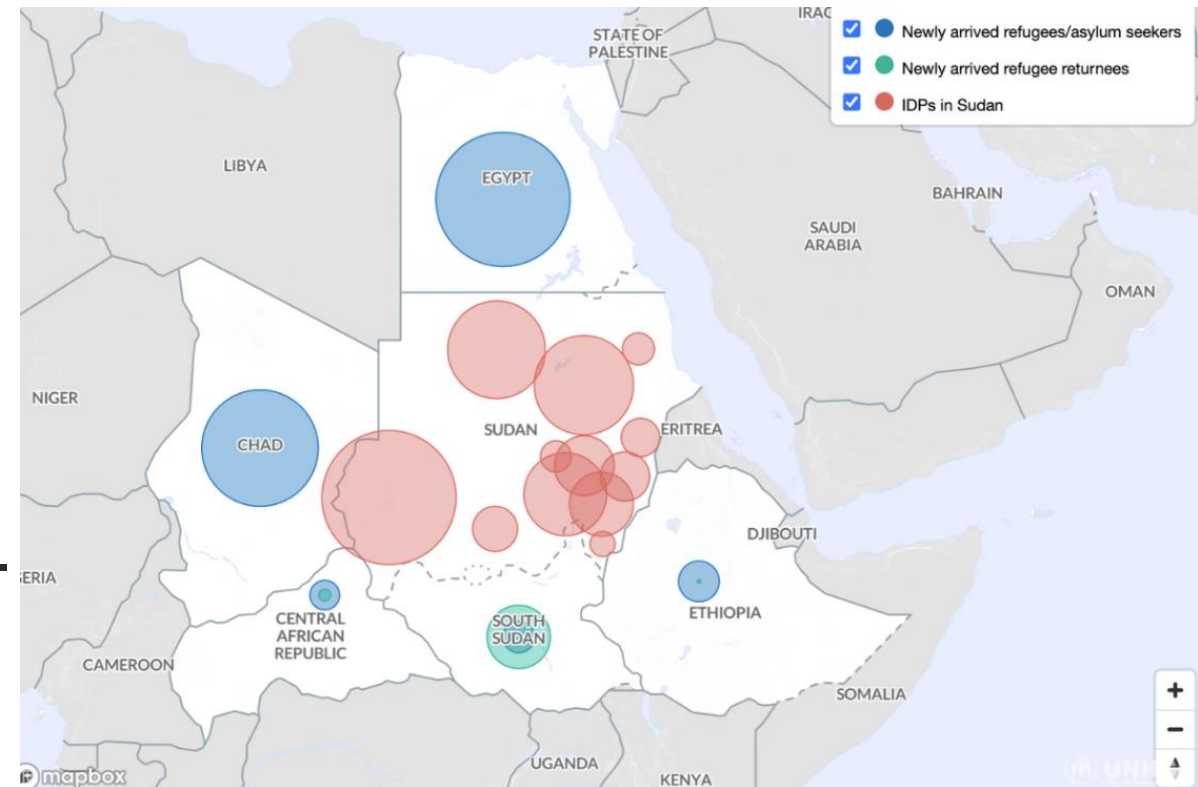
# Hope

- **‘Despite the pain, hope persists.** We are determined to give and provide service to cancer patients despite all circumstances and war and evacuation from the Palestinian Turkish Friendship Hospital to Dar Salam Hospital and then Nasser Hospital and Abu Youssef Al-Najjar Hospital and finally during the days of Fatima Al-Zahra Hospital, which we hope will be our last stop 🙏’
  - *Suha Suleiman Shaath, Gaza pharmacist*
  - *Since then 3 further displacements*



# Sunshine in the times of war; Sudan

- devastating war since
- displacement of more than 10.2 million people, including internally displaced people (IDPs), asylum seekers and refugees
- 50%, 25 million people, need humanitarian assistance and protection.
- 3/4 health facilities are out of service
- Led by **Dr Nahla Gafer** and her Sudanese colleagues in partnership with SANAD and CairdeasIPCT





# Sunshine in the times of war; Sudan

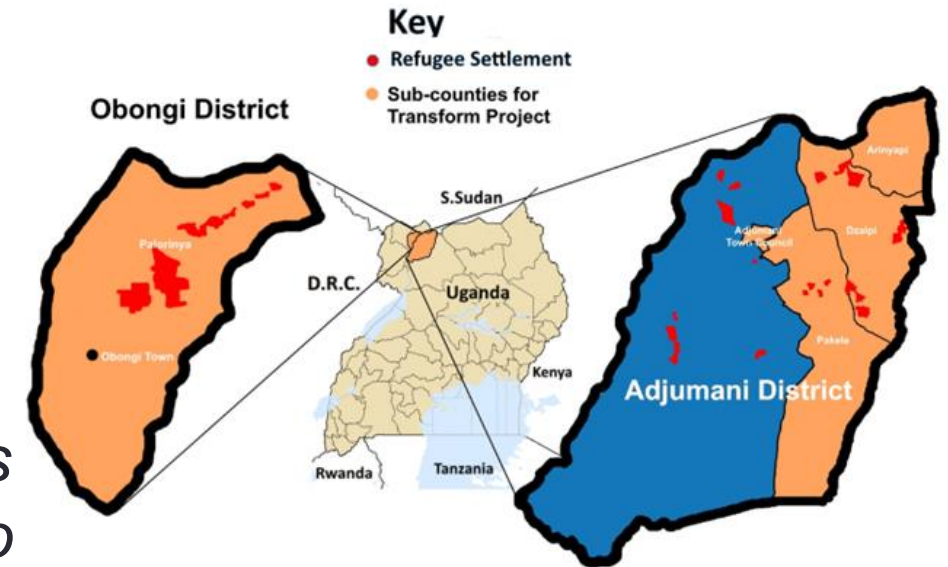
- Psychological support for patients and families and team members
  - Online sessions to build self care and resilience
  - Mentorship support and networking
  - Financial support for living and working
- 
- ‘Yes, we helped them, **they needed us**, but also, we needed to preserve the work that we had started; **we needed to help our patients**. It is part of who we are. This way **we are really healing, caring and humane health professionals.**’





# Integration in a protracted crisis; Uganda

- *'This is one of the most important and long awaited trainings...I did not know this palliative care but **now I have been transformed I will now transform the community.**'*
- *'**We are now guided to guide people**; we are able to guide these clients such as positive ways to manage' Being trained and having the heart to help her I can show her no much worry so it comforts her.'*



- *Led by Ms Vicky Opia and Peace Hospice Adjumani*



# Integration in a protracted crisis; Uganda

- *‘These refugees, we are the same people. We have the same future we have the same destiny. **When your house is on fire where do you run, you run to your neighbours.** Whenever they are here they are like us and if they run for help they must get it’. Local government official*



Leng M, Downing J, Purewal G, et al. Evaluation of the integration of palliative care in a fragile setting amongst host and refugee communities: Using consecutive rapid participatory appraisals. *Palliative Medicine*. 2024;38(8):818-829. doi:10.1177/02692163241269129



<https://eapcnet.wordpress.com/2024/10/08/when-your-house-is-on-fire-where-do-you-runyou-run-to-your-neighbours/>



# Global networks; PallCHASE

You are invited to join the PallCHASE network, to learn more about our work and how you can join the movement to increase access to palliative care in humanitarian settings.

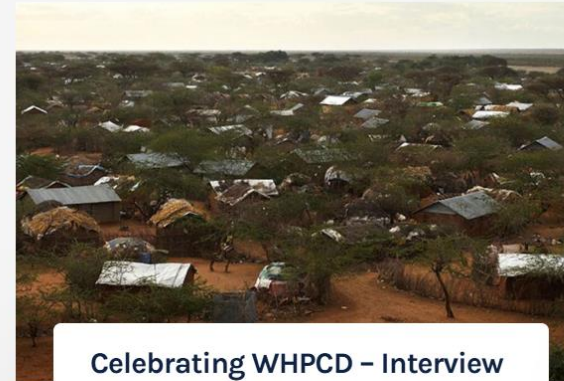
Education ›

Advocacy ›

Research ›

Communication ›

Locate a Palliative Care Programme



## Celebrating WHPCD – Interview from the field

Image: Dadaab Refugee Camp Kenya, Willie Ngetich Author: Anindita Rochili  
From Vital Signs to Vital Support, Khamis shares on The [...]



## PallCHASE held its first side-event at the World Health Assembly

Image: Photos from WHA77  
Interventions and PallCHASE Side Event Source: Dr Megan Doherty  
Author: Joan Marston Executive Committee Member of [...]

  
**PallCHASE**  
Palliative Care in Humanitarian  
Aid Situations and Emergencies



### Webinars

We invite anyone to join our regular webinars.

[Read our blog here](#)



### Training opportunities

Find out more about our training opportunities.

[Read more](#)

<https://pallchase.org/>

# Health as a bridge for peace; WHO initiative

- *‘Health care practitioners commit to serving those in need without judgement. This is articulated in the holistic approach to suffering inherent in pain and palliative care. A medical student in Gaza once described palliative care as **‘humanity until infinity’**. When we **respect and promote the dignity of each person, in living and also in dying**; when we offer **health care that is skilled, as well as empathetic and compassionate**; when we support our **colleagues who face attack or discrimination**, we demonstrate the power of our **common humanity**, **build the conditions for peace**, and are peace and conflict sensitive.’*

*Dr Mhoira Leng representing IAHPIC*

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/who-health-and-peace-initiative/an-innovative-approach---the-health-for-peace-approach-to-programming>





# Compassionate communities

- ‘Together we can hold space for our collective suffering and act to restore humanity in its real essence. Compassion and peace shall prevail!’

## Statement



Compassion requires us to not only bear witness to the events unfolding, but to have the strength and courage to act. We have a moral and a professional obligation to speak out against human-made causes of suffering by advocating for an immediate end to the violence being perpetuated against innocent civilians and for compassion towards all people. We call for an end to hostilities in all places and for the restoration of respect for human life and dignity. Such action is an imperative response from a community whose role it is to promote dignity, care and compassion in living and dying.

*'Insha'Allah my dear sister; we will survive and work together once again for a Palestine free from pain'*

Dr Khamis Elessi 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024

*'A human being inside you and me  
A human being who has a dream and an aim  
Inside his heart and in the depth of his eyes  
He carries hope, sunrise and life  
A human being who loves and never hates  
A human being who has hope for a better  
tomorrow'*

Hamza Namira, Insan

<https://youtu.be/tXEjqmVGOC>

