Peace an Essential Requisite for Public Health

Reza Malekzadeh, MD, AGAF

Director of the National Institute for Medical Research Development (NIMAD) and Minister’s Deputy for Research and Technology
Fundamental conditions and resources for health are

- Peace.
- Shelter.
- Education
- Food.
- Income.
- A stable ecosystem.
- Sustainable resources.
- social justice,
- Equity.
IMPACT OF WAR ON HEALTH

- Over 100 million deaths from war in the last century.
- Each year over 1.6 million people worldwide lose their lives in the prime of life directly to violence, accounting for:
  - 14 percent of deaths among males aged 15–44 years
  - 7 percent of deaths among females aged 15–44 years
War is a major cause of death and disability

• The WHO and World Bank predict that war will be the eighth leading cause of disability and death by 2020.

• For every person who dies as a result of such violence, many more are injured and suffer from a range of physical and mental health problems
Major side effect of War

- **Malnutrition** and undernutrition
- Disruption of infrastructure allows the spread of waterborne cholera, dysentery, and typhus.
- **HIV/AIDS** may be spread as soldiers engage in unsafe sexual practices with multiple partners.
- **New diseases** such as Ebola “emerge” with greater frequency, and diseases such as measles, malaria, and tuberculosis are; difficult to reduce; as a direct result of war.
Conflict and terrorism are two of the fastest growing causes of death globally in 2017

• In 2017, global adult mortality rates decreases plateaued, and, in some cases, mortality rates increased.

• Alarmingly, conflict and terrorism have become two of the fastest growing causes of death globally (increasing by 118% between 2007 and 2017).
Reduce violence and promote peace

To improve the health of populations, it is our responsibility to reduce violence and promote peace, especially in settings of impending, actual, or recent violent conflict.
As Member of medical team in Imposed Iraq war against Iran.

Looking at the remnant of completely vanished Hovieze City.
Sardasht Chemical Martyrs
Chemical ware against Iran

- Saddam had “consumed” 1800 tons of mustard, 600 tons of sarin, and 140 tons of tabun.
- The chemical on slaught killed nearly 5000 Iranians and sickened more than 100,000.
- That doesn’t include Iraqi victims: In March 1988, Iraq’s forces attacked its own citizens with mustard and nerve agents in Halabja, killing as many as 5000 and wounding 7000.
Establishing Hovieze Cohort to Study NCD after rebuilding of Hovieze City
Sardasht Cohort

- Research centers across Iran to uncover how wartime mustard exposures wreaked molecular mayhem that, decades later, triggers illnesses and death.
Sardasht Cohort
Unique opportunity to study the long-term effects of chemical weapons.

• Three decades later, about 56,000 Iranians are coping with lingering health effects from the blistering agent, ranging from skin lesions and failing corneas to chronic obstructive lung disease and possibly cancer.

• The scale of the atrocities means that Iran has a unique opportunity to study the long-term effects of chemical weapons.
Importance of Sardasht Cohort

- The data, some of which are beginning to appear in Western journals, have unavoidable limitations.
- The Iranian researchers can only estimate the doses that victims absorbed, and complicating the picture is the fact that Iraqi forces sometimes attacked with mustard and nerve agents simultaneously.
- “That makes it really difficult to determine what’s going on,” says James Madsen, a physician and lead clinical consultant in USAMRICD’s Chemical Casualty Care Division.
- Still, U.S. researchers say the Iranian findings are pointing to new molecular targets for treating mustard’s long-term effects.
Scientific Collaboration

• A continuous line of human relationships and traditions since past; like an unbroken thread.
• It links cultures and peoples.
• It brings tolerance and understanding.
• It delivers hope and compassion.
Collaborations

• Many universities and centers in Iran
• Collaborating with the 10 best world institutes and universities across the globe
Collaborations

• 49 universities across the Globe
• 28 Iranian Universities and institute.
• 20 Center in TUMS
*Gastric and Esophageal Malignancies In North of Iran*
Other collaborators in the GEMINI project

Paolo Boffetta, Pierre Hainaut, Paul Brennan
Olaf Nyren, Weimin Ye
Paolo Boffetta
Frederik-Jan van Schooten
Arya Mani
Geertuida de Bock
Michael Pawlita
Nick Day, Bruce Ponder, Paul Pharoah, Rebecca Fitzgerald
Kenneth McColl
David Phillips
Tom Marshall, K.K. Cheng
Steven Narod
Paul Strickland
Farin Kamangar
Gastroesophageal malignancy in Northern Iran “GEMINI 2000-2012”

DDRC/ TUMS GUMS MUMS IARC/ WHO CRUK NCI/ NIH K

...
GEMINI consists of several projects including:

- Cancer registries.
- Ecologic Studies
- Pilot studies,
- Case-control studies,
- Golestan Cohort Study.
- Interventional trails for prevention of chronic disease
Iranian Advocacy for Peace
Encouraging and Wishful Factors

- A very good cultural background for philanthropy and welfare in public
Helping hands are more sacred than hands that pray to the sky.

(Cyrus the great) Quote
Human beings are members of a whole
In creation of one essence and soul

If one member is afflicted with pain
Other members uneasy will remain

If you’re no sympathy for human pain
The name of human you cannot retain

Sa‘adi Shirazi, 1210 AD
WE MUST PREVENT WHAT WE CANNOT CURE

Mobilizing health professionals on issues that represent the gravest dangers to human health.
Role of Governments and National Health Systems in Peace Building

International Cooperation towards ‘Health for Peace’

Role of Health Professionals in Peace Building

Human Rights, Medical Ethics and Peace

Networking of NGOs for ‘Health for Peace’

Health for Peace in the Middle East

Medical Education and Peace
1st Congress on Health for Peace Shiraz Iran 2018
Peace, Health, and Sustainable Development in the Middle East

• As two essential human rights, as well as pillars of sustainable development, health and peace are closely interrelated. Further, health and well-being is the focus of sustainable development goal (SDG) 3,

• Peace lies at the heart of SDG.

• Lack of peace can have direct and indirect impact on health, as well as health workers, the civil society, and the whole community who have a role in creating peace.
The International Congress on Health for Peace (ICHP) was held in Shiraz, by Shiraz University of Medical Sciences and the research deputy of Iran’s Ministry of Health and Medical Education with the cooperation of Shiraz University, Governor-General's office of Fars province, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, ICRC, etc. on 13th-16th November, 2018 in Shiraz. Several specialists, experts and researchers presented their articles in this congress. The aim of this congress was to study “the role and responsibility of health professionals and activists in decreasing of the violence and also development of the discourse of Health for Peace”.

Today, human beings needs to develop and reinforce the discourse of peace and friendship more than anytime else. Violence and war are the most important factors of physical, mental and social health damages. People’s trust and respect for the specialists and activists of health even in the war zones and war situations, would increase the humanitarian and professional responsibility of them to increase their attempt for reducing violence and developing the discourse of peace and friendship. In addition to that, the Iranian rich history is full of peace and friendship and this was another influential factor in holding this congress according to our cultural, religious and historical thoughts for development of peace and friendship in the world.
Future Plan

Preventing War and Promoting Peace
A Guide for Health Professionals

Edited by William H. Wiist and Shelley K. White
بیا که نوبت صلح است و دوستی و عنايت
به شرط آن که نگوییم از آن چه رفت حکایت