

**Statement of the I.R. Iran on
“Building resilient communities for better health and well-being in the Eastern
Mediterranean Region – implementation of the roadmap”**

**Mr./Madam Chairperson,
Excellences, ladies and gentlemen**

We appreciate the Secretariat for providing this opportunity to report on their progress, innovations and challenges in the implementation of the Resolution of 68th meeting of the Regional Committee on "Building Resilient Societies for Better Health and Well-being in the Eastern Mediterranean Region".

More than 3 decades of people-oriented health programs have elapsed in the I.R. Iran, and in the Covid-19 pandemic, the country made valuable experiences that indicated the effectiveness of public participation and the role of health volunteers in health security and community resilience.

Chair:

By strengthening the health promotion programs in the Ministry of Health, the popularization and socialization approaches of health governance have been strengthened, and we have had experiences in creating health-supporting environments, forming organizational and neighborhood health promotion councils.

By implementing the risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) from 3 years ago and expanding it to health priorities, including immunization and dealing with COVID-19, it has further facilitated the presence of public representatives and health volunteers in decision-making and implementation process in order to empower the community. Accordingly, we are interested in participating in the regional workshops and to exchange experiences with other countries.

In the field of education and health promotion, developing a national program for increasing health literacy with a social participation approach, e.g. by creating and developing health-supporting organizations that promote health literacy has been another step in the direction of building organizational and public trust in health programs as well as people-centered organizational needs assessment. Based on these assets, the I.R. Iran is trying to implement the family health program and strengthen referral system with the aim of improving health literacy and empowering families with a neighborhood-based approach and social participation of people and local governmental and non-governmental representatives and strengthening health communication programs (RCCE). In this regard, MOH&ME has prepared and provided various interactive and smart educational packages for health volunteers and community health workers. In the case of international financial support, it can be developed and conform as much as possible to the quality standards required by WHO.

Mr. Chairman:

Considering the significant effects of community health promotion and people's literacy on sustainable development, member countries need stronger and more targeted political measures, including the mobilization of internal and external resources with multi-sectoral approaches centered on the people.

We call on WHO to continue facilitating the exchange of experiences, also strengthening regional and global collaboration in programs to build resilient societies.

Madam/Mr. chair, thank you for the floor.

Deputy for Public Health

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