



Geopolitical Tensions, Currency Collapse, and Public Health: Protecting Civilians in Crisis Zones

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地缘政治紧张局势、货币崩溃与公共卫生：危机区域平民保护

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Recent geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have triggered cascading crises that extend far beyond security: severe currency depreciation, hyperinflation, shortages of essential medicines and food, and a steady erosion of population health and health system capacity. For ordinary civilians—especially children, pregnant women, older adults, and those with chronic illnesses—these shocks are not abstract economic indicators but daily threats to survival and dignity.

Sharp currency devaluation has rendered savings nearly worthless, pushing basic goods and healthcare out of reach for millions. As import-dependent health systems face disrupted supply chains, medications, diagnostics, and medical consumables become scarce or unaffordable. Inflation further reduces real household income, worsening malnutrition, mental distress, and preventable mortality. Such socioeconomic collapse undermines the foundations of universal health coverage and global health security, turning economic stress into a public health emergency.

From a health policy perspective, crisis-affected populations deserve consistent protection: unimpeded access to humanitarian and medical assistance, safeguarding of critical health infrastructure, and policy responses that prioritize equity and humanitarian principles. Evidence repeatedly shows that sanctions, conflict, and economic instability disproportionately harm vulnerable groups and generate long-term public health scars.

The international health community has a responsibility to advocate for civilian protection, evidence-based humanitarian response, and peaceful resolution of disputes. Health is not a casualty of geopolitics; it is a universal right that must be upheld even in the most challenging contexts.