

IASP Statement on the Global Impact of Armed Conflict

The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) is deeply concerned about the increasing number of armed conflicts unfolding across the world. From protracted wars to newly emerging crises, these conflicts continue to cause immense suffering, widespread displacement, and profound psychological trauma to individuals and communities. Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes or live amid violence and instability, adding to already unprecedented levels of internally displaced persons, refugees, and asylum seekers globally.

Armed conflict brings with it devastating consequences; loss of life, disruption of communities, breaches of human rights, and attacks on civilians. The mental and physical toll on individuals affected by war, including those who remain in conflict zones and those who have sought safety elsewhere, is immense. Exposure to violence, grief, uncertainty, and social fragmentation has serious implications for mental health and can significantly increase vulnerability to suicidal thoughts and behaviours.

Violence, grief, and the loss of safety and stability can have lasting effects on people's mental health, often long after the conflict ends. Feelings of fear, isolation, and hopelessness can increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviours and the impact of conflict often remain invisible. It is vital that the wellbeing of people caught up in conflict is supported, not only in the immediate crisis but also in the years that follow. The international community must recognise the urgent need to provide trauma-informed psychosocial support, both during and after conflicts. This means making sure that mental health and psychosocial support are a core part of humanitarian aid, alongside food, shelter, and medical care. Support must be accessible, culturally sensitive, and responsive to the needs of people who have experienced trauma. Communities need safe spaces to heal, rebuild, and reconnect, and frontline workers must be equipped to provide care with compassion and understanding.

IASP, through its global network, partners, and national representatives, is committed to supporting all efforts to safeguard mental health in conflict settings. We call on governments, aid organisations, and the wider international community to make mental health and suicide prevention a priority in all humanitarian responses. No matter where in the world conflict occurs, the protection and restoration of mental wellbeing must be a core part of humanitarian aid.

**Resources to support mental health and psychosocial wellbeing in
conflict and humanitarian settings:**

- [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) MHPSS Resources for Emergency Settings](#)
- [WHO: Mental health and psychosocial well-being in humanitarian emergencies](#)
- [MHPSS International Movement Hub](#)
- [UNHCR Mental Health and Psychosocial Support](#)
- [mhpss.net — Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Network](#)

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