

Health at the Crossroads of Conflict, Climate, and Cuts

A Reflection from PQMD's June Pillar Talk: Displaced Futures

[Click here to watch the recording!](#)

At PQMD's June Pillar Talk, ***Displaced Futures: Health at the Crossroads of Conflict, Climate, and Cuts***, our members and partners came together to ask hard questions and share practical solutions. From Gaza to Sudan, displaced and hosting communities are not only navigating acute emergencies but doing so amid deep, systemic fragility. At PQMD, we are a community of doers. This Pillar Talk highlighted the expertise of our members: UNHCR, International Rescue Committee, and Corus International – also joined by Peace Therapist.

Even before recent development assistance cuts, chronic underfunding, widening health inequities, and the rapid rise of climate-driven emergencies were pushing systems to their limits. Now, with over 122 million people displaced globally—the highest number in history—the gap between need and response is growing even wider. Here's what we heard:

Ten Takeaways Driving The Work

- **Displacement is a cascade, not a single crisis.**
Beyond shelter and safety, people face the loss of identity, access to education, language, and long-term opportunity. The response must match that complexity.
- **Mental health is health infrastructure.**
Psychosocial care — especially for youth — must be scaled and integrated. “Dignity and healing are not luxuries,” one speaker shared. “They are rights.”
- **Youth are at the epicenter.**
More than half of displaced people are under 18. We must safeguard their present and invest in their future through access to education, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and leadership opportunities.
- **No more parallel systems.**
Displaced communities must be integrated into national health systems from the outset to ensure lasting, equitable access and build stronger infrastructure for all.
- **Climate change multiplies risk.**
Heatwaves, drought, flooding, and food insecurity are increasing displacement and disease. Health systems must evolve to meet these threats with climate-resilient tools and strategies.
- **Coordination is the new currency.**
With funding down and needs rising, coordinated action across NGOs, donors, governments, and local partners is critical. Impact now depends on alignment.
- **Smart financing, not just more funding.**
From debt swaps to private sector partnerships, new models must fund what works — especially at the local level.

- **Zero-dose children can be reached.**
In 2023, 21 million children missed vaccinations. But even in conflict settings, success is possible through community trust and innovative outreach.
- **Refugee-led and local organizations are essential.**
These partners aren't peripheral — they're central to lasting, dignified solutions. But they need meaningful funding and long-term support.
- **Helping refugees helps us all.**
Inclusive systems are not just compassionate — they're stronger and more resilient for everyone involved.

Where Do We Go From Here?

This work cannot be reactive. It must be strategic, sustained, collaborative — and we can look towards interim progress measures, even in these strained times. Speakers offered not just analysis — but directionality. A new era of humanitarian response is emerging, one that is local, climate-aware, youth-focused, and impact-driven. From the conversations, we picked up on the following carry-forwards that can help point the way:

- Scale refugee-led mental health innovations
- Prioritize engagement for displaced youth
- Be thoughtful about climate-resilient health delivery
- Reimagine coordination models to meet today's scale and complexity of need

Our speakers offered these meaningful outcomes — not just activities — to reflect progress and equity in fragile settings, including:

- % of displaced populations accessing mental health support
- School retention and SRH access among displaced adolescents
- Vaccine coverage for zero-dose children in conflict zones
- Maternal and preventable disease outcomes in displacement-affected areas
- % of funding directed to local and refugee-led organizations

The challenges are immense and still becoming more compounded, frequent and complex. Yet, with smarter coordination, climate-adapted systems, youth-centered approaches, informed partners and locally driven leadership, there is a path forward.

At PQMD, we're proud to support a global community that builds change together. If you're working at the intersection of health, displacement, and humanitarian response, we'd love to connect. These are the kinds of conversations we have at PQMD. [Reach out](#) to learn more about joining our network of doers.

Speaker Shared Resources:

IRC: [A New Era for Aid 2025 Prioritising People and Protecting Progress | The IRC](#)

Peace Therapist: <https://peacetherapist.com>; whatsapp hotline : +90 505 854 40 88, and

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/peacetherapist>

UNHCR: [UNHCR Dataviz Platform - Aim of better data storytelling](#) & [Health intervention in emergencies | UNHCR](#)



**Displaced Futures:
Health at the
Crossroads of Conflict,
Climate & Cuts**

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Jin Dawod
Founder,
Peace Therapist

Dr. Asaad Kadhum
Senior Public Health Officer,
Division of Resilience and Solutions,
UNHCR

Dr. Mesfin Teklu Tessema
Head of the Health Unit,
**International Rescue
Committee**

Moderator: Dr. Dennis Cherian
Managing Director And Global Practice
Head, Health And Nutrition,
Corus International

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