

## **Break the 'negative cycle' causing conflicts worldwide !**

Large-scale conflicts persist even at this very moment in Myanmar, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Sudan, Israel, Palestine, and many others across the globe\*.

Situations in the current world are contradicting the philosophy of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that proclaim, 'leave no one behind.' These circumstances also oppose the mission of Japan Association of Global Health (JAGH), which aims to rectify and diminish disparities in the world. In particular, we can never condone that hospitals, medical facilities, and refugee camps—places that should be protected even in times of war—are becoming target of attacks in conflict zones. Many, including mothers and children who should be foremost protected, are becoming casualties. This is an unacceptable situation from a humanitarian perspective as stated in the Geneva Conventions.

We, the members of the JAGH, have long been working together to address global health challenges in countries and regions worldwide. Many of us have close friends and colleagues residing in conflict zones, and it is a daily concern for us, unable to refrain from praying for their safety.

We, both globally and in Japan, pledge to be mindful and take action on the following:

- Striving to ensure the physical and mental health of those who are displaced,
- Keeping the Japanese society accurately informed of the serious healthcare issues of various countries,
- Halting the cycle of bashing, which includes slanders, attacks or discriminations against foreigners living in Japan and bullying towards children with foreign roots,
- Ensuring fair and equal treatments regarding healthcare services for people of all nationalities,
- Supporting the provision of sufficient mental health care and counselling for all those in need.

In the academic community, we believe it is essential to uphold the identity of all scientists and to continue scientific communication among researchers for global challenges including health issues, which humanity should collectively address.

To everyone, working tirelessly in conflict zones and protecting each life at this very moment in the world, we, members of the JAGH, are consistently concerned about you and think of you every day although what we can do is really limited. We eagerly anticipate the prompt arrival of days when we can break this 'negative cycle' and work together again.

As individuals involved in global health, we aspire for 'peace': a prerequisite for health and continue to advocate for the appropriate and equitable utilization of the Earth's resources for the sake of health and peace.

\*Ref. Obermeier AM, Strand H, Berry G. Trends in State-Based Armed Conflict 1946-2022. Conflict Trends 1-2023.