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THE LANCET



# Commission on Syria

Health in Conflict



Mohammed Badra/European Pressphoto Agency

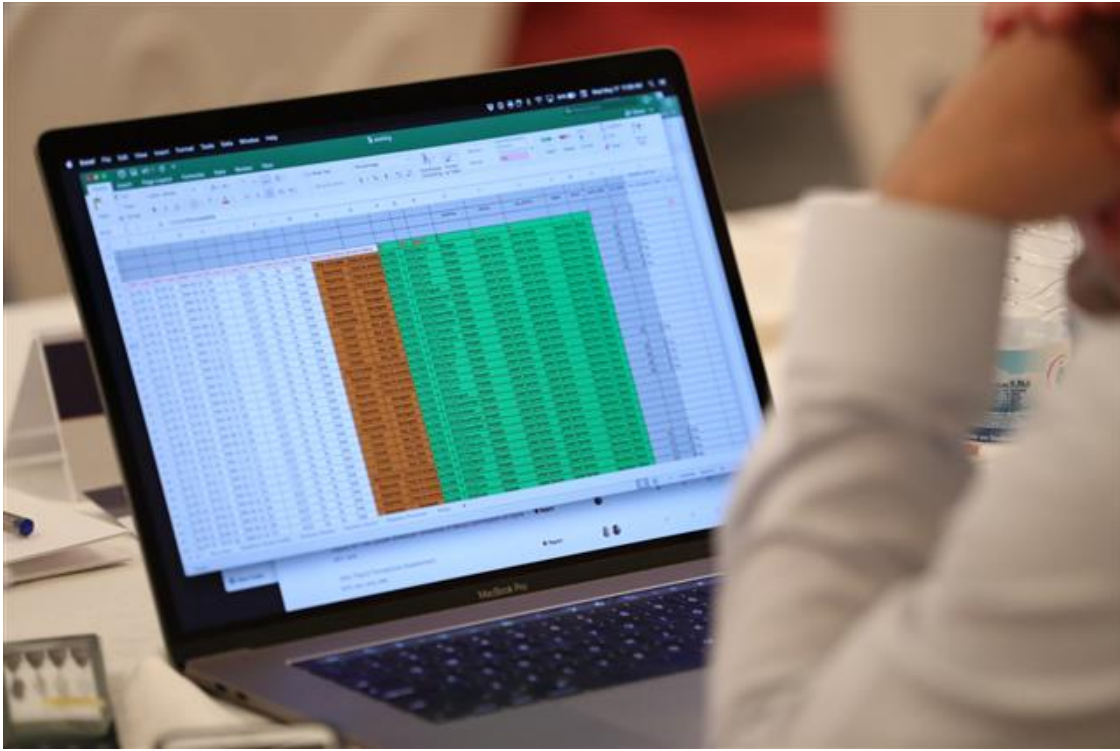
*The Lancet-AUB Commission on Syria E-Newsletter Issue 3  
April-July 2017*

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## Spotlight

### **The Commission holds its second Commissioners' meeting in Beirut**

Between 16 and 18 May 2017, the Commission conducted its second full Commissioners' meeting at the Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut. Thematic Group co-leads presented their key messages and research plans to Commissioners in addition to their proposed data sources and methods. Vibrant and lengthy discussions took place regarding these research plans and the overall framing of the Commission. Discussions also tackled issues related to future plans for advocacy, outreach and policy influence. The third full Commissioners' meeting will take place in October 2017.



## The Commission in Regional and International Dialogue

**Washington, D.C.:** Between 7 and 9 April 2017, Co-Chair Samer Jabbour discusses the Syria crisis and presents the Commission work at a plenary session entitled "*Humanitarian Emergencies*" at the 8th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) Conference, which was held in Washington, D.C. Commissioner Paul Spiegel moderates the session. More information about this conference can be found [here](#).



**Ankara, Turkey:** Between 5 and 7 May, 2017, WHO - Turkey hosts an Expert Consultation at its premises in **Ankara**. Co-Chairs Samer Jabbour and Iman Nuwayhid as well as Research Fellow Fatima Ghaddar participate in the Consultation. The following issues are discussed: a) Evidence and current research on Syrian refugees in Turkey; b) Avenues for collaboration with the Commission; and c) *The Lancet* Call for Papers on Health and the Syria Conflict.

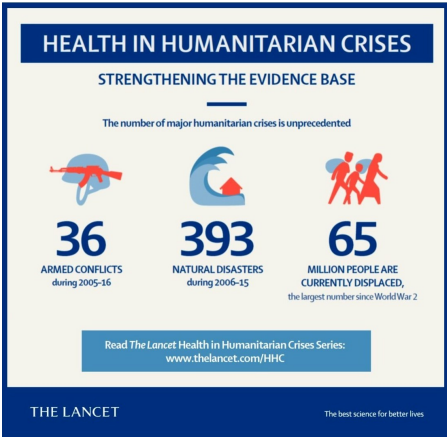


**Beirut, Lebanon:** Commission Co-Chairs Jennifer Leaning and Iman Nuwayhid as well as Commissioners Omar Dewachi and Paul Spiegel contribute in various ways (keynote speech, presentations, session chairing) to the proceedings of the 48th Middle East Medical Assembly: First Global Conflict Medicine Congress which was held between May 11 and 14, 2017 at the American University of Beirut. Download the slides from Jennifer Leaning's presentation, entitled "Women in war: Evolving understandings of rape" [here](#).

**Gaziantep - Reyhanli - Istanbul, Turkey:** Between 3 and 9 July 2017, Commission Co-Chairs Jennifer Leaning and Iman Nuwayhid as well as Research Fellow Fatima Ghaddar conduct a visit to Turkey to explore humanitarian aid and health systems dynamics throughout the Syrian conflict. They interview a number of Syrian humanitarian organizations in Gaziantep and Reyhanli (Turkey) and then attend 17th Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) Annual International Conference, “*Dilemmas in Healthcare in Syria: Needs Assessment, Dynamics, and Ethics*” in Istanbul in which they interview Syrian physicians who work within Syria.




**Geneva, Switzerland:** On 24 May 2017, Commission Co-Chair Samer Jabbour represents the Commission in a side meeting at the **70th World Health Assembly** organized by *The Lancet* and UNRWA in collaboration with the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA). The event is entitled “No Health without Peace for Palestinians and Palestine refugees”. Dr Jabbour speaks about the Commission's approach to the refugee question including the case of Palestinian refugees from Syria.

## Relevant Publications



**HEALTH IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES**  
STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE

The number of major humanitarian crises is unprecedented

 <b>36</b> ARMED CONFLICTS during 2005-16	 <b>393</b> NATURAL DISASTERS during 2006-15	 <b>65</b> MILLION PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY DISPLACED, the largest number since World War 2
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Read *The Lancet* Health in Humanitarian Crises Series:  
[www.thelancet.com/HHC](http://www.thelancet.com/HHC)

THE LANCET The best science for better lives

**8 June 2017: *The Lancet* Series on Health in Humanitarian Crises** is launched. This Series of four papers and accompanying Comments assesses the evidence base for health interventions in humanitarian crises and finds significant variations in the quantity and quality of evidence. It brings together lessons learned from recent failures in humanitarian crises to provide recommendations to improve a broken system.

The Series, co-led by Commissioner Francesco Checchi and contributed to by Commissioner Paul Spiegel, includes several articles that refer to the Syrian

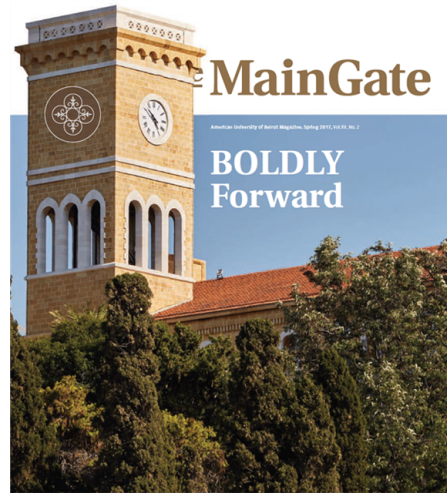


المركز السوري  
لبحوث  
السياسات  
Syrian Center For  
Policy  
Research

**1 June 2017:** The Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) launches its report “**Social Degradation in Syria: The Conflict Impact on Social Capital**” at the American University of Beirut. The report, co-authored by Commissioner Rabie Nasser, discusses the loss to social capital as a result of the conflict.

crisis.

The Series includes an article entitled **"Attacks against health care in Syria, 2015–16: Results from a real-time reporting tool"** which addresses the subject of targeting of healthcare facilities, an issue raised by the Commission in its Health Policy paper **"Health workers and weaponization of healthcare in Syria"** (published in *The Lancet* in March 2017).



**16 June 2017:** The Spring 2017 issue of AUB's *The MainGate* magazine features a major news story about the Commission entitled **"A Hard Look at Syria's Health Crisis"**. The magazine is e-distributed to 54,000 people worldwide. The print edition is sent to 26,000 addresses.

To view all the Commission's E-newsletters, click [here](#).