



SHEM HIGHLIGHTS

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What to wait for 2024

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This month, we delve into a comprehensive report on the impacts of chemicals, waste, and pollution on human health, as requested by the 76th World Health Assembly (WHA). The report casts a spotlight on the significant role environmental factors play in global health outcomes and underscores the urgent need for action to shield the public from unhealthy environments. Also discusses the ongoing involvement of the World Health Organization (WHO) as an observer in relevant meetings, providing technical support to Member States, and exploring ways to continue contributing to the sound management of chemicals, waste, and pollution. It emphasizes the importance of taking immediate action to safeguard public health and the environment. In the context of climate change, the Director-General's report provides a global overview of health risks associated with climate alterations and describes the necessary response from the global health community. It stresses the urgency of addressing climate change, which is occurring at an unprecedented rate, leading to observable adverse impacts on health sector needs. Brazil's health priorities in the G20 are outlined, focusing on four interconnected axes: health equity; pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response with an emphasis on local and regional production of medicines, vaccines, and strategic inputs; digital health for the expansion of telehealth, integration, and data analysis of national health systems; and climate change and health. These priorities are reflected in all Brazilian positions made at the Executive Board (EB) and highlight the need for evidence-based arguments for health as a central consideration in climate policies and support national health agencies in presenting health priorities in international climate negotiations. Furthermore, the report stresses the need for WHO to become carbon-neutral by 2030. **Access the reports.**

KEY REPORTS FOR THE WHA 2024

[Report of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response](#)

[WHO's work in health emergencies](#)

[WHO's Climate change and health Report](#)

[Universal health coverage WHO's Report](#)



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News from the field

GLOBAL CHALLENGES, LOCAL IMPACT: CIVIL SOCIETY STANCE ON GAZA CRISIS AND HEALTH EQUITY

The conflict between Israel and Palestinians in the Gaza Strip was a prominently featured topic addressed by Civil Society Organizations. Médecins Sans Frontières warned about some countries' decision to suspend funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), considered crucial to alleviate the suffering of civilians and refugees in regions where the humanitarian crisis has reached catastrophic levels. Greenpeace expressed its rejection of the International Court of Justice's decision on South Africa's genocide accusation against Palestinians, emphasizing the need for an immediate ceasefire as the only viable option to halt violence in the Middle East.

The 154th meeting of the World Health Organization's Executive Board was widely utilized by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to make statements on these issues and others, such as the pandemic treaty and the governance of the WHO itself. The World Federation of Public Health Associations made a statement highlighting the link between health and peace, asserting that the challenges posed by conflicts demand immediate attention and a commitment to ensuring access to healthcare for all.

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VIDEO

[Closing the Gender Gap in Health](#)

PODCAST

[Global debate aims for universal health coverage](#)

[Geopolitics of global health](#)

ARTICLES

[War on Gaza: the impossible duty to care for the critically ill](#)

[A global analysis of the determinants of maternal health and transitions in maternal mortality](#)

COURSE

[Cervical Cancer Control](#)

ENDEAVOURS

T20 Brasil call for policy brief abstracts: let's rethink the world



In an unprecedented move, T20 Brasil is inviting think tanks and research centers globally to contribute towards shaping effective policy recommendations for G20 officials. This initiative extends beyond the G20 membership, welcoming inputs from a broad network of knowledge institutions. The objective is to craft a robust set of policy briefs that will inform the final communiqué and task forces' recommendations, addressing pressing global challenges. For further details, [visit here](#).

POINT OF VIEW

READ SHEM MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

End the violence and help the victims in Gaza

Israel and Gaza: a quick end to a tragic but necessary war

Wars are never necessary: Gaza is the best example

HEALTH DIPLOMACY

FIOCRUZ GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY MONTHLY ANALYSES

In 2024, the [Fiocruz Center for Global Health \(CRIS/Fiocruz\)](#) will offer a Course on Current Affairs on Global Health and Health Diplomacy through a series of 25 online seminars featuring national and international experts to discuss and reflect on the main problems and political challenges. For further details, [click here](#).

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SustainableHealthEquity

At SHEM we link citizens, public health and healthcare advocates, scientists, academics, and related institutions from all regions, cultures, and ideologies pursuing the universal right to health. We aim to promote sustainable health equity as an ethical principle that guides all national and international economic, social, and environmental policies.

SHEM's Highlights Editors: Andre Luis Sales, Diana Rivas, Gustavo Buss