

International Community Demands Full Access to Quality Health Services

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GEVENA, Switzerland, May 21 (ACN) The General Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday in Geneva during the inauguration of the 71st World Health Assembly that "we dream of a world in which people can enjoy quality health service as a main human right".

Dr. Tedros shared stories of the life of people that he met in conflict areas and other emergency situations, although he said that he also learned by each one of them examples of success and hope.

During the first year of his chairing the world entity, the WHO responded to 50 emergencies in 47 nations and territories from Bangladesh, Syria to Nigeria.

There is nothing more valuable than this human right, he said, and an institution in charge of defending the health of 7 billion people has great responsibility and must comply with high standards.

The mission established since the foundation of the WHO 70 years ago was not modest, he said, but we are not satisfied with a world with a difference of 33 years in life expectancy among some countries, said the General Director to close to 4 thousand representatives of 194 member States participating in the Palace of Nations in Geneva.

According to the expert, the recent outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo is an example that health safety and universal coverage are two faces of the same coin.

Adhanom urged to strengthening health systems to prevent future outbreaks of the terrible disease.

Regarding the World Health Organization, he referred to the alliances to detect and treat four million people

infected by tuberculosis and commented on the initiative to increase in the treatment of malaria and other curable diseases that continues to inflict millions of lives each year.

During the inaugural speech, the General Director also spoke about preventing cervical-uterine cancer, the strategy to ease the effects of climate change in small islands and developing States.

The WHO has accelerated in the development of its General Work Program with the objective of promoting health, maintain a safe world and serve those that are vulnerable; that is the globalization we want to join, said Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

He affirmed that work on themes like the International Disease Classification helps trace the reasons why people get sick and die, in order for the health systems to respond in consequence and insisted in the urgency to improve the response systems to emergencies.

The specialist condemned a world in which people get sick due to the air they breathe and highlighted the permanent objective of generating an impact on nations and improve the life of the people.

He said that the key is primary attention and called out for the protection of people that have illness, those that cannot obtain the necessary assistance; and those that do not even know they are infected with a potentially lethal agent.

That is the challenge of the World Health Organization, he said, we must establish alliances, develop an efficient plan and execute it to improve the quality of life of the people.

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