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Armed Conflicts

In parts of the world where our closest ties to armed conflict are only the death tolls and images we see online, how many of us fully understand the impact on those affected? Hundreds of thousands of migrants have attempted the treacherous journey across the Mediterranean Sea, risking death in hopes of better lives. Médecins Sans Frontières hospitals in Syria and Afghanistan have been demolished by airstrikes and bombings, forcing MSF to pull out of dangerous zones. While politicians worldwide debate the consequences of admitting refugees, international medical aid continues to be targeted and thwarted in war-torn regions, leaving people without aid. How do victims of armed conflicts access necessary healthcare when those dedicated to impartial humanitarian assistance have no choice but to withdraw from the most hazardous regions?

The aftershocks of armed conflicts such as the Syrian civil war and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq will undoubtedly be felt all over the world long after they end. For Volume VI Issue II of *The Journal of Global Health*, we examine the repercussions of such conflict in the context of healthcare. Flip through the pages of this issue to see how countries with well-established healthcare systems struggle to meet the medical needs of migrants and refugees and how prejudices and politics complicate the already challenging medical response. As students of global health, we should strive to understand the physical, mental and emotional needs of those affected by armed conflicts and to remember that there remain lasting effects even after conflict has ended. This understanding precludes the development of useful and viable solutions such as improving public health infrastructure, addressing mental health issues and implementing policies beneficial for the greater public.

This issue marks *The Journal of Global Health's* fifth year of leading impactful student global health discussions around the world. We are proud to present our first issue as co-editors-in-chief and the culmination of months of hard work of the JGH board members and authors featured in this issue. There remains much more research to be done and many more stories to be told. The JGH team continues our mission to promote global health dialogue and impactful research in the form of our physical journal, global health podcasts, and regularly updated content on our website, ghjournal.com.

Kristy Choi Diana Ruan

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