

GLOBAL HEALTH DAY 2026



Care under pressure

Experiences, health systems, and responses

The case of Myanmar – health, politics, and resistance

Time: Tuesday 27 October 2026

Place: ØHA1, Blåhø, Øya helsehus, NTNU/St. Olavs Hospital, Trondheim

08.30 Registration with coffee/tea

09.00 Welcome by Torstein Baade Rø, Pro-dean for Research and Innovation,
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, NTNU

Care under pressure - experiences, health systems, and responses Chair: Håkon Bolkan

The session will move beyond individual accounts to highlight broader system challenges and responses, including attacks on healthcare, the role of humanitarian organisations, and the importance of maintaining core health system functions during crises. While grounded in real-world experiences, the presenters will also point toward solutions and continuity: how care is sustained, adapted, and rebuilt under pressure.

09.10 – 09.40 ***Experiences from a mission in Gaza***
Frode Aasgaard, Surgeon, St. Olavs Hospital

09.40 – 10:00 ***How do hospitals in India respond in humanitarian settings?***
Dr. Tej Prakash Sinha, AIIMS, India

10.00 – 10.15 ***NORWAC missions in conflict-affected areas, like Bangladesh and Myanmar (tbc)***
Solveig Ratchje Svendgaard, Nurse, St. Olavs Hospital / Norwegian Armed Forces

10.15 – 10.30 Coffee/tea break

- 10.30 – 10:45 ***When evacuation is too risky: task shifting on Ukraine's frontline***
 Marcus G. Prescott, surgical resident at St. Olavs Hospital
- 10.45 – 11:05 ***Innovation and simulation in the perspective of crises response, Ukraine (tbc)***
 Ole Terje Østrem, Design Manager at Laerdal Global Health, Stavanger, Norway
- 11.05 – 11:25 ***Reflections on an exchange at an African hospital (tbc)***
 NTNU nursing students with exchange experience in Namibia (or Tanzania, Kenya)
- 11:25 – 11:35 **Presentation of Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Program; Humanitarian Response-Coordination of health and displacement (HumRes)**
 Ass Prof. Jennifer Infanti, NTNU
- 11.35 – 11.45 **Lunch of new journal in global health: Alliance**
 Prof. Terje A. Eikemo, leader of CHAIN – Centre for Health Equity Analytics, NTNU

Lunch – *Bring your own food or buy lunch in the canteen*

11.45 – 12.30 **Lunch break**

The case of Myanmar – health, politics and resistance

Chair: Jennifer Infanti

This session takes a deeper, country-specific look at Myanmar as a case of protracted crisis, where political conflict, military rule, and displacement have profoundly shaped access to healthcare. It will explore how health systems operate in parallel to – or in resistance to – state structures, including the role of ethnic health organisations, cross-border care, and diaspora and advocacy networks. By focusing on Myanmar, this session aims to unpack the complex intersections of health, politics, and power – and what they mean for providing care in highly constrained and contested environments.

- 12.30 – 12.50 ***Introduction to Myanmar and the current situation in the country***
 Mr. Maung Maung Myint, journalist, activist and dentist; serves as the National Unity Government of Myanmar's official envoy to Norway
- 12.50 – 13.05 ***A personal perspective: Scholars at Risk***
 Aung Soe Htet, MD and Researcher, Scholars at Risk, NTNU
- 13.05 – 13.35 ***The healthcare ecosystem along the border: communities providing care***
 Dr. Cynthia Maung, Medical doctor and founder of Mae Tao Clinic, Myanmar/Thailand
- 13.35 – 13.55 ***How does the diaspora support local healthcare? (tbc)***
 Dr. May Thwe Thwe Win, Specialty Doctor in General Surgery at University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust
- 13.55 – 14:10 Coffee/tea break
- 14.10 - 14.30 ***Peace and health – Capacity-building in epidemiology***
 Prof. Espen Bjertness, Leader of Department of Community Medicine and Global Health, UiO
- 14.30 – 15.15 ***Panel discussion with audience: How can we reach the most vulnerable?***
Panelists: Dr. Cynthia, Dr. May Thwe Thwe Win, Mr. Maung Maung Myint and Prof. Espen Bjertness **Moderator:** TBC – Vikram?
- 15.15 – 15.30 Closing remarks by Jennifer Infanti, NTNU