

Mobility of Patient in North Africa and the Middle East

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Introduction

- ❑ Historical Information
- ❑ Major Health Issues
- ❑ Financial consideration
- ❑ Present situation
- ❑ The Future

Historical Information

Historical Information

- For many centuries patient movement was not allowed to prevent disease outbreaks
- However famous surgeons and doctors movement was welcomed by authorities for their own treatment
- In 19th century with the medical progress of communicable disease treatment the laws were changed to allow patients movement across the BORDERS. e.g. TB patients and Switzerland,.....

Historical (2)

- Nevertheless the mobility of the patients is under the responsibility of the Member States.
- Not generally comes under the International Law and neither UN or WHO has direct responsibility, except normative aspect of disease prevention by vaccine and standardization
- Economic and Political limitation (Polio vaccine and Nigeria)

Major Health Issues

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region

Communicable Diseases and Other Public Health Problems

- ❑ High burden of malaria, tuberculosis, ARI, childhood diarrhoea, malnutrition
- ❑ Increasing incidence of HIV/AIDS
- ❑ High maternal, infant and neonatal mortality
- ❑ Immunization coverage (<80%)

Non-communicable Diseases

- ❑ Represent over 40% of the regional disease burden, expected to rise to 60% by 2020
- ❑ Cardiovascular
- ❑ High prevalence of tobacco smoking
- ❑ Lack of physical activity,
- ❑ Unhealthy dietary habits, sedentary lifestyle, obesity
- ❑ Increasing incidence of cancer – lung, breast, liver.....

Non-communicable Diseases and Injuries

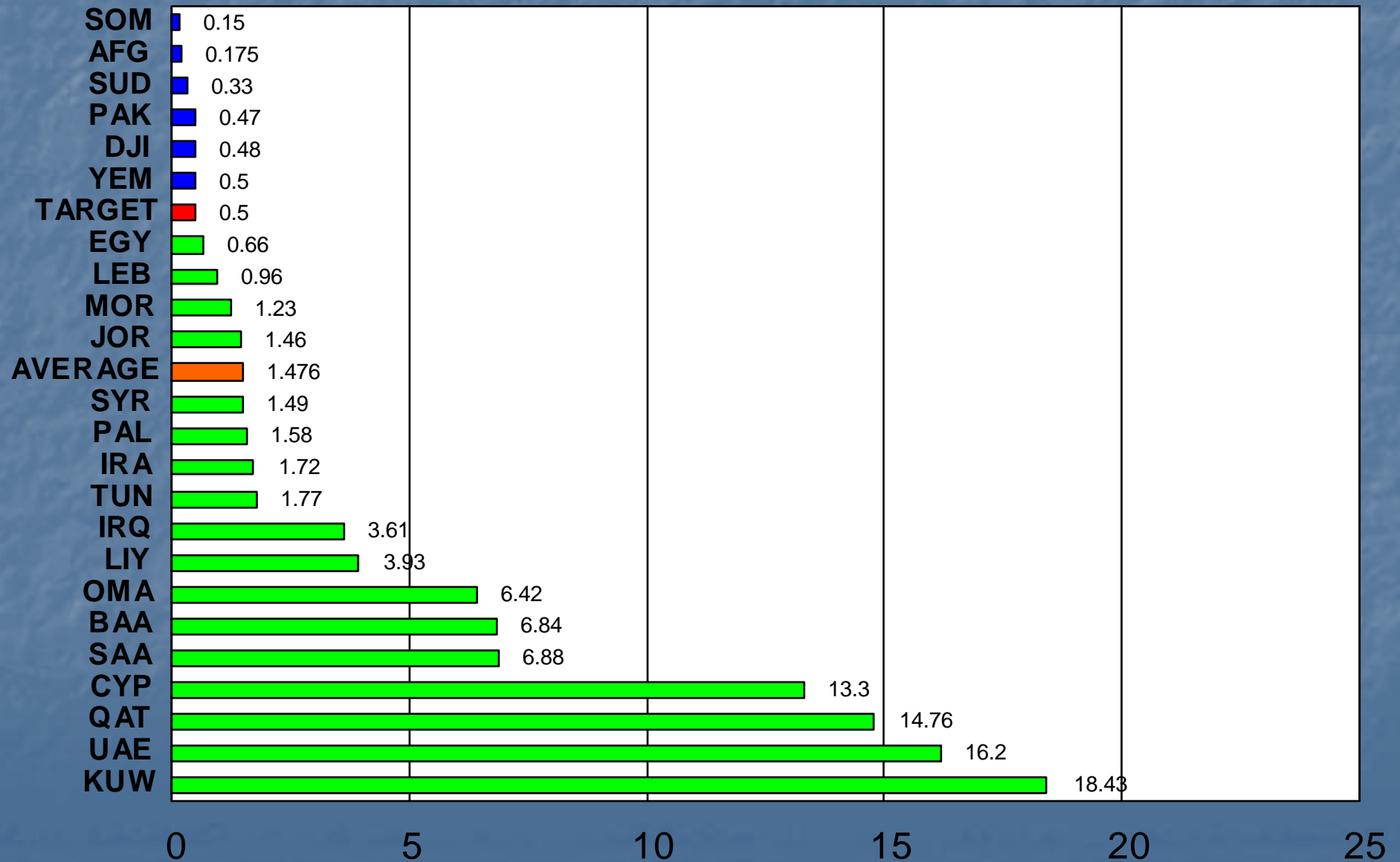
- ❑ Increased burden of mental ill health particularly in countries in conflict and natural disasters
- ❑ Around 6 million blind and 22 million people with visual impairment
- ❑ Road traffic accidents
- ❑ Domestic violence
- ❑ Inadequate emphasis on health promotion and primary prevention programmes

Health Priorities and conditions in European Region

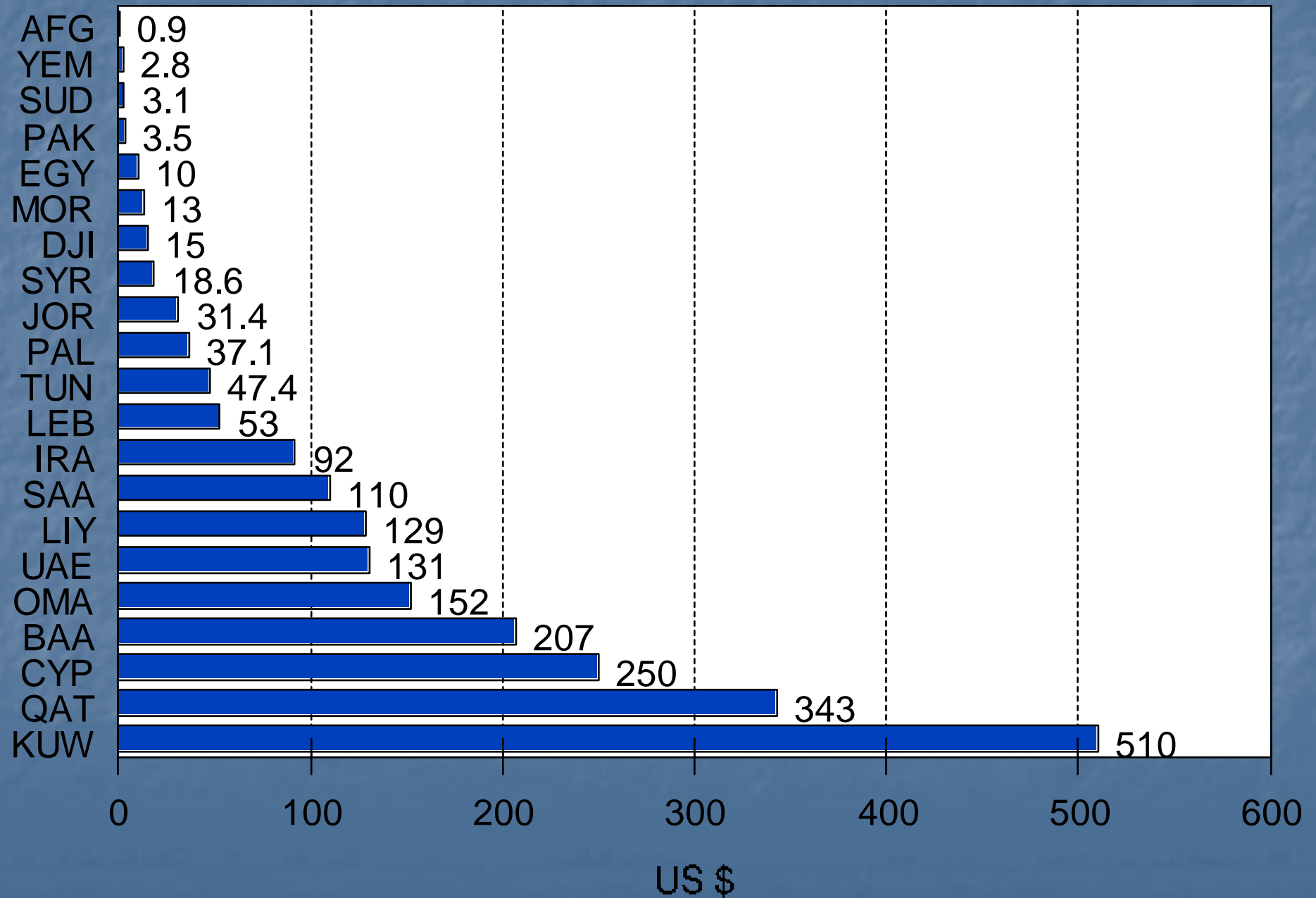
- Injuries and violence
- Obesity
- Harmful use of alcohol
- Mental health
- HIV/AIDS
- Disease outbreaks and health emergencies

Financial Consideration

Per Capita GNP in Countries of the Region (US\$ x1000)



Per Capita MOH Expenditure in the Region



Patient Mobility

- Between counties of the Region
- Beyond the Region
- Public (MOH) Support
- Private (out of pocket)
- Health Insurance

Why?

- **Access**
- **Quality of care and standard of treatment**
- **Cost**
- **Tourism combined**
(India, Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia)

Some Examples

- Inviting experts (surgery)
- Tourism and medical care
- Sending European patients to recognized centres in a Mediterranean country (France- Tunisia)
- Investing in a new high quality health facility, supported by specialized centres (Europe or North America)
- Use of Telemedicine in diagnostics. (Qatar – Germany, Saudi Arabia-US)
- Decentralizing the Health care services to the private sector

Opportunities and Challenges

- Sharing of capacity
- Centers of reference
- Exchange of best practices
- Learning and education
- Bringing IT and Health together for cost effective and better patient care

The Future

- Increase trend in patient mobility
- Need for standardization and best practices
- Better regulation for patient protection
- Statistics

THANK YOU