

Crises and Societies

Issue: Global Health in Crisis

Crises are a constitutive feature of societies. They occur in various forms – political, economic, social, or ecological – and challenge existing structures while simultaneously generating new dynamics. Crises are not merely exceptional situations; they shape long-term societal developments, institutional arrangements, and forms of coexistence.

The frequently cited understanding of crisis by Reinhart Koselleck – as an irreversible decision and turning point in ancient Athens – represents only one definitional approach. For Jürgen Habermas, the moment of crisis lies in the critical perception of “structural transformations” by members of society, whereas other approaches consider crises in modern societies to be a normal condition (Nassehi).

The concept of crisis does not possess universal empirical or analytical validity. Precisely this openness of interpretation reflects a purposeful dynamic of development that underscores its applicability to societal and global conditions. Conversely, an understanding of societal structures is useful for analyzing and addressing crises.

In the field of global health, these dynamics are particularly evident. Global health systems have long been shaped by multiple, overlapping crises – from pandemics and armed conflicts to structural inequalities in access to healthcare. Current developments further intensify these trends and raise fundamental questions about the stability, performance, and future of health systems worldwide. It becomes clear that crises not only reveal existing problems but often deepen them: inequalities are exacerbated, institutional capacities come under pressure, and international cooperation is challenged. At the same time, crises also create spaces for adaptation, reorganization, and transformation – at global and regional levels as well as within local contexts. This issue aims to explore how crises affect societies, what structural changes occur, and how new forms of transformation emerge.

Contributions may address, among others, the following questions:

1. How do global crises (e.g., climate change, wars, trade relations) affect access to healthcare worldwide? To what extent do they reinforce (social) inequalities? How do crises exacerbate health disparities between the Global North and the Global South?
2. How do current crises impact healthcare systems in individual countries? How do local communities respond to global health threats?
3. What role do social movements play in the context of global health measures?
4. What is the role of prevention in times of permanent crisis?

5. How do societal responses to health crises differ across political and cultural contexts? What long-term societal transformations (positive and negative) can emerge from health crises?
6. How can global health strategies and forms of global health governance be made more resilient in the long term?

Additional thematic focuses related to the nexus of crises and global health are explicitly welcome.

Submissions may come from various disciplines, and interdisciplinary work is encouraged. Both theoretical and empirical as well as practice-oriented contributions addressing the relationship between crises and global health are welcome.

Please submit your abstract (max. 400 characters including spaces) by June 15, 2026 to omar.sahrai@akkon-hochschule.de and paul.blug@igg-berlin. After review, selected authors will be invited to a discussion session in which the concept, structure, and focus of the contributions will be jointly reflected.

We look forward to your submission and to a diversity of perspectives on “Global Health in Crisis.”

Formal Requirements	
Abstract length	400 characters including spaces
Text length	16,000–17,000 characters including spaces (equivalent to approximately 6–7 A4 pages)
Illustrations / graphics	Use sparingly where possible; the focus is on text-based contributions
Font	Arial
Font size	12 pt
Citation style	APA
Footnotes	As few as possible
Language	Submissions may be written in either English or German
Inclusive language	Desired
Further information	
Publisher	Chromaland Medienverlag
Target audience	Universities, civil society organizations, policymakers, practitioners, and other interested parties With a simultaneous commitment to academic rigor

Deadlines and process	
Abstract submission deadline	June 15, 2026
Author discussion session	June 30, 2026
Full paper submission deadline	September 15, 2026
Contact and submission	
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