



Joint 5th Joint AEMH-FEMS General Assembly 10-11 May 2024, Berlin, Germany

TURKISH CYPRIOT PHISICIANS UNION COUNTRY REPORT

3 main current concerns of the healthcare system in our country :

- **Problems in working conditions, occupational health and safety in hospitals**
- **The supply and demand balance in public hospitals is gradually deteriorating due to rapid population growth as well as high inflation and decrease in purchasing power**
- **Lack of planning in health care system - although there are many medical and dentistry faculties opened in the country, there are an increasing number of missing branch specialists in hospitals**

Turkish Cypriot Physicians Union is organized among physicians working in public hospitals in Northern Cyprus. The president and the board of directors are elected by the members at the general assemblies held every two years.

Our union struggles to improve the working conditions and personal rights of physicians working in public hospitals, to improve health services, and to increase social and professional solidarity among members. In addition, we also work on public health and social problems.

The general assembly of the union was held on December 22, 2023 for the vacant chairmanship and board of directors positions due to the resignation of the previous term chairman from public office, and the new chairman and board of directors were elected.

The government wanted to amend the law in December 2023 to increase tax rates on the salaries of all public employees. Like many publicly organized unions in the country, our union opposed this and started a struggle, and after the negotiations with the government and due to the public support created, the government took a step back and gave up on increasing tax rates. Again, as a unions' gain, the increase in the salaries of employees for every 6 months in line with the cost of living (inflation) since the beginning of the year, will be applied for every 4 months this year.

Despite the increasing earthquake risk in the Mediterranean region after the earthquakes in Anatolia in 2023, our demands for strengthening hospital buildings against earthquakes continue to remain unanswered. Likewise, managers do not cooperate adequately regarding occupational safety problems in hospitals. We continue to apply pressure to the officials on this issue.

Recently, the demand for public health services has been increasing due to the increasing population in the country, as well as the effect of increasing inflation and impoverishment. However, since hospital capacities and human resources do not increase at the same rate, the supply-demand balance is increasingly deteriorating.

There are no specialist physicians in some branches and there are no plans to fill these fields in the coming years. As working conditions in public hospitals are becoming increasingly difficult, and physicians' salaries and personal rights have deteriorated as a result of changes in labor laws, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find physicians to be employed in public hospitals. Our union is negotiating with government to increase the wages for overtime and on-call, and to improve doctors' retirement rights, and continues its struggle by filing legal cases.

The problems caused by 8 medical faculties and 9 dentistry faculties opened one after the other in the last 15 years in the country still continue. Our union, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Higher Education Institution and CTMA, actively participates in the legislative studies and works to establish a better system for medical and dental education and specialties in the country.

We believe that as physicians, we must raise our voices to end the ongoing wars and genocide in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip as soon as possible. Each of us must struggle until peace, justice and democracy prevail all over the world.