World Hepatitis Day 2017 Global Summary Report

Introduction

On 28 July 2017 the world once again came together to mark World Hepatitis Day (WHD). This was a momentous occasion for us to join forces to raise awareness and demand action in disease prevention and access to testing, treatment and care. One of just four disease-specific global awareness days officially endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO), WHD unites patient organisations, governments, medical professionals and the general public to boost the global profile of viral hepatitis. The efforts from each and every organisation and individual mean that steps have been taken to transform the lives of the 325 million people living with the illness and help to eliminate hepatitis.

One of just four disease-specific global awareness days officially endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO), the seventh official WHD took place on 28 July 2017 under the theme ELIMINATE HEPATITIS. Once again the impact of WHD was truly global with 162 countries taking part across the globe and 106 national governments commemorating the day.

With over 1,000 events held worldwide, WHD 2017 was marked with screening and vaccination drives, public seminars, press briefings, marches and health fairs as well as more unusual events such as the illumination of well-known landmarks and music concerts. Throughout the world the day was supported by heads of state, ministers, celebrities, private corporations, civil society organisations, the media and the general public.

This report celebrates the success of WHD 2017 by showcasing the activities organised by World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA) member organisations, national governments and the WHO Regional and Country Offices and serves as an acknowledgement to all those who participated in the day.
Introduction

Why World Hepatitis Day is important?

Viral hepatitis is one of the leading causes of death globally, accounting for 1.34 million deaths per year – that’s as many as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria. Together, hepatitis B virus and hepatitis C cause 80% of liver cancer cases in the world.

Viral hepatitis is not found in one location nor amongst one set of people; it is a truly global epidemic that can affect millions of people without them even being aware. Currently, 90% of people living with hepatitis B and 80% living with hepatitis C are not aware of their status. This can result in the real possibility of developing fatal liver disease at some point in their lives and in some cases, unknowingly transmitting the infection to others.

With the availability of effective vaccines and treatments for hepatitis B and a cure for hepatitis C, the elimination of viral hepatitis is achievable, but greater awareness and understanding of the disease and the risks is a must, as is access to cheaper diagnostics and treatment.

With the inclusion of viral hepatitis in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the recent adoption of the world’s first global hepatitis strategy, we are at a pivotal moment. Now more than ever political commitment is needed. Without urgent action, deaths will continue to rise and the epidemic will continue to grow.

World Hepatitis Day presents an ideal opportunity: an opportunity to join together and raise the profile of viral hepatitis among the public, the world’s media and on the global health agenda.

"World Hepatitis Day gathers everyone’s strength and arouses everyone’s attention.”
Kaohsiung Research Association for the Control of Liver Disease, Chinese Taipei

"World Hepatitis Day creates awareness of viral hepatitis in a way that many countries could not do on their own.”
Hope Life International, The Gambia

"World Hepatitis Day acts like a nuclear and it is a guideline for many activities throughout the year.”
National Liver Foundation of Bangladesh, Bangladesh

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HepActive, Bulgaria

"World Hepatitis Day is important because it is the day we specifically push all our energy and make a "bang of hepatitis" so everyone can listen and take note. We reach people, get them tested and vaccinated. We also reach policy makers and persuade them to act.”
Women and Children Health Empowerment Foundation, Nigeria

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Global day for local impact

Participation

162 Countries

106 Governments

172 WHA members

64 WHO Country Offices

Response

382 campaign supporters

1,210+ events

48,474 social media posts

6,826 Press mentions

2,423 custom posters created

Global Participation


Impact

29,282+ people vaccinated

48,985+ people tested

101,000+ people attended events

Global Participation - WHO Regions


#World Hepatitis Day trended
The World Health Organization officially endorsed World Hepatitis Day in 2010 following the World Health Assembly resolution 63.18, which pronounced the day as one of only seven officially endorsed WHO health days and just one of four WHO disease-specific days. The backing of the World Health Organization has transformed the impact of World Hepatitis Day, bringing awareness to a wider audience and greatly increasing government participation. Here is just a brief overview of the World Health Organization’s activities on WHD 2017:

**Event announcement**

In an event announcement on their website, WHO signaled WHD as “an opportunity to add momentum to all efforts to implement the WHO’s first global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis for 2016-2021 and help Member States achieve the final goal - to eliminate hepatitis.” In their event announcement, shared with WHO Country Offices and national governments, WHO outlined five key messages for WHD 2017 as well as a number of actions for countries and communities to carry out on WHD.

**Press release**

In a press release published on WHD, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General commended the world’s commitment to tackling viral hepatitis: “It is encouraging to see countries turning commitment into action to tackle hepatitis. Identifying interventions that have a high impact is a key step towards eliminating this devastating disease. Many countries have succeeded in scaling-up the hepatitis B vaccination. Now we need to push harder to increase access to diagnosis and treatment.”

WHO used WHD to release new data from 28 countries – representing approximately 70% of the global hepatitis burden – that indicates efforts to eliminate hepatitis are gaining momentum. The data reveals that nearly all 28 countries have established high-level national hepatitis elimination committees (with plans and targets in place) and more than half have allocated dedicated funding for hepatitis responses.
The global campaign: ELIMINATE HEPATITIS

ELIMINATE HEPATITIS

Why elimination?

The elimination of viral hepatitis has now been firmly put on the map. At the 69th World Health Assembly in Geneva, 194 governments adopted WHO’s Global Strategy on Viral Hepatitis, which includes a goal of eliminating hepatitis B and C in the next 13 years. The community responded by launching NOhep, the first ever global movement to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030.

WHD 2017 was an opportunity to build on this momentum and accelerate progress towards achieving the goal of elimination by 2030. To achieve elimination, greater awareness, increased diagnosis and key interventions including universal vaccination, blood and injection safety, harm reduction and treatment are all needed. Every activity that addresses viral hepatitis is a step towards eliminating it. Together WHO and the World Hepatitis Alliance agreed that the theme of WHD 2017 should therefore be ELIMINATE HEPATITIS.

Humanising elimination

The elimination of viral hepatitis is not just a public health goal – it is an individual goal for millions of men, women and children across the world.

To highlight that viral hepatitis is relevant to everyone, everywhere in the world and that helping to eliminate it is something we can all support, the World Hepatitis Alliance developed the #ShowYourFace campaign to sit within the ELIMINATE HEPATITIS theme. Supporters across the globe adapted the #ShowYourFace campaign, using the branding to help bring a human face to our goal of elimination.
#ShowYourFace

#ShowYourFace was a personalised Polaroid photo campaign focusing on individual human faces. Individual human faces were accompanied by I AM statements, powerful personal messages that aim to make people feel empowered, personally connected and understand their role in elimination. I AM statements highlight the individual actions being taken to meet the 2030 goal or stress the emotions felt by those impacted by hepatitis to encourage others to take a stand.

Using the online selfie tool, over 3,500 individuals showed their faces for WHD and told the world how they are standing up against viral hepatitis.
Campaign materials

The World Hepatitis Alliance developed a suite of campaign materials designed to support and complement activities across the globe. These included:

Posters & customisable poster tool

A set of seven editable posters were developed based on the key messages. Posters were available to download from the official WHD website in seven languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish). An innovative online poster tool enabled participants of the public to fully customise the posters. With the online tool the posters could be translated into other languages, the images could be changed, organisation logos could be added and personal I AM statements could be added. These posters were used by organisations across the world and were displayed at local events, shared through social media and formed part of media outreach.

Infographics

Infographics were available to support social media activities and raise awareness of the impact of viral hepatitis. These included new data from the WHO Global Hepatitis Report, 2017.

Toolkits

A number of toolkits were produced to help participants plan for their WHD activities. These included a campaign toolkit, events toolkit, media toolkit, social media toolkit and corporate toolkit.

Logos and banners

The official WHD logo and ELIMINATE HEPATITIS banner were available to use throughout participants' activities. The WHD logo itself was available in over 40 languages. An animated #ShowYourFace banner was also available to use across websites and presentations.

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Thunderclap

357 signed

Reached

15.6 million

210 events uploaded to the World Hepatitis Day website

10,142 campaign materials downloads

500million impressions on Twitter

653 tweets on hour on average on WHD

1 tweet every 6 seconds

167,132 visits to the WHD website

7 blogs developed
Notable participants

Across the globe notable individuals including politicians, actors, musicians and bloggers used their spotlight to help raise awareness of viral hepatitis. Here’s just a snapshot of some of the support celebrities gave on WHD:

French musician Louis Bertignac created a special video message for WHA member SOS Hépatites.

British actor and comedian Stephen Fry gave his voice by signing the WHD Thunderclap, helping to reach an additional 12.5 million people.

Ghanaian rapper Okyeame Kwame marked WHD with a free hepatitis screening and vaccination.

WHA member SHECA Foundation gained lots of celebrity support in Nigeria including actor Adeniyi Johnson, actress Funke Akindele Bello and members of royalty Ooni Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi and Queen Wuraola-Zynab Ogunwusi.

Polish actors Piotr Franciszewski and Artur Barci spearheaded a hepatitis C campaign entitled ‘Do not be surprised’ organised by Fundacja Gwiazda Nadziei Star of Hope Foundation.

Nigerian healthcare philanthropist and Global Goodwill Ambassador for the International Confederation of Midwives Toyin Saraki participated in and promoted the #ShowYourFace campaign.

British TV personality and doctor Dr Christian Jessen participated in Public Health England’s WHD poster campaign.

How to use this report

This report strives to provide an accurate overview of the events and activities that took place to mark WHD 2017. Given the phenomenal level of participation in WHD 2017, the report is only able to give full coverage on activities carried out by WHA member organisations, national governments and WHO. Activities carried out by other organisations have been included in global and regional statistics and mentioned in the other participating organisations section. Every effort has been made to include activities but inevitably research will not uncover all information. If we have missed something from the report, please do not hesitate to contact us at contact@worldhepatitisalliance.org.

Participant symbols

- WHA Member organisation
- WHO Country Office
- Government
PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

- 39 countries participating
- 83% of region participating
- 23 governments participating
- 17 WHO Country Offices participating
- 22,734 people attended events*
- 17,556 people tested*
- 17,927 people vaccinated*

*where reported, numbers likely to be higher

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN 2017

- Algeria
- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Chad
- Congo
- Côte d’Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Republic of Cabo Verde
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Swaziland
- Togo
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Zimbabwe
Message from WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti

On 28 July 2017, the world observes World Hepatitis Day. This year, the theme is: “Eliminate Hepatitis” and calls on countries and communities to accelerate progress towards achieving the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health problem by 2030.

Five viruses are responsible for most cases of viral hepatitis, which is an inflammation of the liver due to a viral infection. These are the hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis D virus (HDV) and hepatitis E virus (HEV). All the viruses can cause acute hepatitis, but only HBV and HCV frequently cause chronic hepatitis which can lead to scarring of the liver (cirrhosis) and primary liver cancer. The HBV and HCV cause 96% of deaths from viral hepatitis around the world. The epidemic caused by HBV affects mostly the WHO African and Western Pacific regions.

Viral hepatitis is a major global health problem and needs an urgent response. The first Global Hepatitis Report, produced by the World Health Organization in 2017, shows that there were approximately 325 million people living with chronic hepatitis B virus infection or hepatitis C virus infection at the end of 2015. About 70 million of them were in the African Region. It is estimated that the disease caused more than 136,000 deaths in the Region in 2015 alone.

Unfortunately, most people with chronic viral hepatitis are not aware of their status, and very few people are accessing testing and treatment in the African Region. The 2017 report showed that only 9% of HBV-infected people and 20% of HCV-infected people had been tested and diagnosed. Of those diagnosed with HBV infection, 8% were on treatment, while 7% of those diagnosed with HCV infection had started treatment in 2015.

It is possible to eliminate viral hepatitis. The widespread use of hepatitis B vaccine in infants has considerably reduced the incidence of new chronic HBV infections. Other measures include prevention of mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B which includes the birth dose vaccination, safe blood supplies, improving injection safety in healthcare settings, introducing comprehensive harm reduction services to prevent transmission of hepatitis B and hepatitis C among users who inject drugs and treatment of hepatitis B and C. In addition, ensuring high levels of sanitation and access to safe food and water are effective interventions for preventing and controlling epidemics of hepatitis A virus and hepatitis E virus.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls on the international community to combat hepatitis, and for inclusive approaches that promote equity and universal health coverage to ensure no one is left behind. In May 2016, WHO presented the first Global Health Sector Strategy on viral hepatitis which focuses on elimination to the World Health Assembly. In August the same year, Member States in the African Region adopted a framework for action (2016-2020) to assist countries to implement the global strategy.

On the occasion of this World Hepatitis Day, I urge all Member States to strengthen their national programmes by introducing hepatitis services through a public health approach to benefit all, and rapidly scale up testing and treatment services. I appeal to the general public to get information about viral hepatitis, seek testing for viral hepatitis and learn if they need treatment.

I call on international partners, civil society, and the private sector to support the regional hepatitis response by promoting awareness, advocating for adequate investments and working with Member States to implement the key prevention and treatment interventions.

WHO will continue to support Member States to implement the hepatitis strategy to eliminate hepatitis as a public health problem in the African region.

Working together, we can achieve the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030.
WHA member **Association Nationale SOS Hépatites** ran an extensive awareness campaign in the lead up to WHD. The campaign included an awareness evening where they hosted an information stand outside famous landmark the Grande Poste in Algiers. The evening was also attended by liver transplant patients who shared their stories.

Other participating organisations:

- **Centre hospitalo-universitaire (CHU)**
- **Nedir Mohammed de Tizi Ouzou**
- **EPH Kolea**

The **Ministry of Health**’s communication office released a WHD statement, highlighting the global and national burden of viral hepatitis and announcing that it has set up a National Technical Group for the Control of Viral Hepatitis. The announcement also stated that the government is in the process of finalising national guidance documents as well as investing in means of diagnosis and treatment. The government also stressed its commitment to accelerating actions to achieve the global goal of eliminating hepatitis by 2030.

Members of the **National Technical Group for the Control of Viral Hepatitis** were invited to speak at a WHD lecture held for students of the **Instituto Médio de Economia de Luanda (IMEL)**.

**WHD was celebrated in Benin with a fortnight of events from 25 July to 10 August that were spearheaded by WHA member **Alliance Béninoise des Organisations de la Société Civile contre les Hépatites Virales (ABOSCHVI)**. Throughout this period ABOSCHVI organised awareness campaigns in 25 communes in Benin.**

On 28 July ministers met in Grand-Popo in Agoué for a Parliamentary Forum on the Proposal for a Law on the Prevention, Control and Management of Viral Hepatitis. The event was attended by eminent personalities, including public health experts from France such as former Minister of Health Claude Evin and former Minister in charge of the Elderly Michèle Delaunay as well as the **Minister of Health of Benin Alassane Seidou** and technical and financial partners.

On 3 August ABOSCHVI held an advocacy activities throughout the city of Cotonou and appeared on a roundtable discussion on TV channel ORTB.

On 4 August WHD was officially marked by the **Ministry of Health** at the Cotonou Convention Centre under the theme of ELIMINATE HEPATITIS. The event was co-organised by ABOSCHVI and was attended by the **WHO country representative Jean-Pierre Baptiste**, the government focal point for hepatitis, Professor Nicola Codjo and healthcare professionals. During the event the Minister of Health spoke about the hepatitis situation in Benin while the WHO representative stressed that elimination is possible. At the event ABOSCHVI officially reported to the Ministry on the past year’s civil society activities against viral hepatitis in Benin. Whilst the event took place, hepatitis B and C screening was available on the Esplanade outside the convention centre.

On 10 August ABOSCHVI held a workshop to launch the civil society strategic action plan against viral hepatitis.

The events throughout this period received widespread media coverage.
On WHD Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Wellness Shenaaz El-Halabi retweeted MSF Access Campaign’s WHD tweet highlighting the number of people globally still unable to access hepatitis C treatment.

The Ministry of Health released a WHD statement outlining the burden of hepatitis in Burkina Faso and the government’s response including their hepatitis B vaccination programme. The statement was shared through online news websites and the Ministry’s Facebook page.

WHA member SOS Hépatites Burkina organised a series of WHD events. From 2-6 July they held an awareness and screening campaign that was followed by hepatitis B vaccination. They tested a total of 2257 people and vaccinated 1211 people. On 7 July the organisation held a conference at the National School of Public Health under the theme of “Better understand viral hepatitis to better act” which involved 117 students. On 12 July SOS Hépatites Burkina held a press conference in Ouagadougou under the theme of “Eliminating viral hepatitis in Burkina by 2030: operationalising the strategic plan”. They held awareness and screening activities at Saint Camille Parish and Saint André Parish on 16 July, 23 July and 30 July. On 28 July they organised an advocacy march under the theme of “NOhep: NO EXCUSE” that called on the government and health authorities to accelerate the implementation of the national strategy. At the end of the march, the organisation visited patients at the Hepato-gastroenterology department of the CHU Yalgado Ouédraogo. Donations were given to the patients and the Social Action Service of the hospital. This was followed by a public lecture under the theme of “Eliminate Hepatitis B and C: It is possible, learn to act better.” The lecture was hosted by Hepato-gastroenterologist Dr. Béré Christiane and attended by representatives from the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization Country Office in Burkina Faso. The activities received widespread media coverage and SOS Hépatites Burkina were interviewed by with online press, TV channels and radio stations.

Other participating organisations:
- Centre hospitalier universitaire Yalgado-Ouédraogo
- Medicine Students Association and Pharmacy Students Association of the University OUAGA I Joseph Ki ZERBO
African region

Cabo Verde

✓ Awareness
✓ Media coverage

The Ministry of Health published the WHO Regional Director’s message on their website and promoted it through their Facebook page. An Infectious Diseases Specialist for the Ministry of Health also gave an interview for news website Sapo.

Cameroon

✓ Awareness
✓ Education
✓ Testing
✓ Vaccination
✓ Media coverage

WHA member Natural Initiative for Voluntary Blood Donors “NIVBLOODON” shared WHD infographics through their Facebook page to raise awareness.

WHA member Positive Generation ran community outreach activities to raise awareness of viral hepatitis.

Other participating organisations:
✓ Cameroon Young Pharmacists - CYP
✓ Centre Médical de l’Estuaire de Douala
✓ Favour Low Cost Health Care Foundation
✓ HERO Cameroon (Health Education)

Central African Republic

No participation reported

Chad

✓ Awareness
✓ Policy
✓ Testing
✓ Media coverage

The Ministry of Health organised an awareness day with the Faculté des Sciences de la santé humaine with university students. As well as raise awareness among the students, the event encouraged voluntary testing for hepatitis. The event was covered by national television.

The Secretary of State for Public Health, Dr Mahamat Annadif Youssouf made an announcement to mark the day urging for immediate action. He also noted that Chad have adopted a national strategy to combat viral hepatitis.

Comoros

No participation reported

Republic of the Congo

✓ Media coverage
The Ministry of Health worked with St Paul’s Hospital Millennium Medical College to challenge traditional beliefs about viral hepatitis in Addis Ababa. Their activities included a panel discussion involving community leaders with over 500 attendees and a screening event where 250 were tested. Their efforts were also covered by local radio stations.

WHO Country Office in Ethiopia retweeted the WHO African Region’s tweet highlighting what individuals can do to eliminate hepatitis.

UNICO, Côte d’Ivoire

WHA member Union contre la Co-Infection VIH/Hepatites/Tb (UNICO) organised community outreach throughout Abidjan to raise awareness.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

WHA member Association d’Encadrement des Personnes Infectées par l’Hepatite (EPIH) carried out door-to-door community outreach in the Karisimbi commune where they reached 113 households. During the community outreach they distributed more than 500 leaflets. EPIH appeared on national radio to mark WHD and call out the government for their lack of action.

Other participating organisations:
- CHU de Bouaké
- Fondation Monseigneur Bokeleale

Equatorial Guinea

No participation reported

Eritrea

No participation reported

Gabon

Media coverage

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WHO Country Office in Ethiopia retweeted the WHO African Region’s tweet highlighting what individuals can do to eliminate hepatitis.
The *Ministry of Health* held a press conference with 150 journalists where Dr Momodou Lamin Waggeh, Director of Health Services, stressed the immense burden of viral hepatitis on a national and global scale. Representatives from *WHO Country Office in The Gambia*, Medical Research Council The Gambia Unit (MRC) and civil society reiterated the need for action. WHA member *Hope Life International* also attended and spoke at the event. The press conference resulted in widespread media coverage.

WHA member *Save Your Liver Foundation (SYLiF)* organised free screening under the theme “Eliminate hepatitis” for residents at Dome in Accra in collaboration with Ghana Health Services. The organisation also called for increased education and vaccination.

Other participating organisations:
- Black Nurses Association of Cincinnati
- Centre of Awareness
- Centre of Awareness (COA)
- End Point Homeopathic Clinic
- Forces Liver Health Protection Project (FLiHP) of the Ghana Armed Forces
- Hepatitis Alliance of Ghana
- MDS-Lancet Laboratories
- Okyemwe Kwame Foundation
- SAQS Healthcare Services Limited
- Sign Language GILLBT

President of WHA member *SOS Hépatites Guinée* and renowned gastroenterologist Dr Abdourahamane Ndiovia Diallo gave an interview to national newspaper Guinée Matin, in which he gave an overview of the hepatitis situation in the country and called on the government to develop a national plan.

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No participation reported
As part of the Ministry of Health, the National AIDS and STI Control Programme (NASCOP) celebrated WHD with a number of activities. They announced through an official government release that they are in the process of finalising the National Guidelines for the Control and Management of Viral Hepatitis. A press conference was held on 12 July ahead of WHD and representatives from NASCOP and Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) appeared on TV to raise awareness of the disease and the Ministry’s efforts to tackle hepatitis. On WHD a procession was organised in Dagoretti followed by a ceremony with keynote speeches and testimonies from cured hepatitis patients. NASCOP also tweeted throughout the day. On WHD a procession was organised in Dagoretti followed by a ceremony with keynote speeches and testimonies from cured hepatitis patients.

Civil society organisation Medecins du Monde also worked closely with the Ministry of Health and partner organisations to conduct a variety of community outreach activities. They organised a mass media awareness campaign that included newspaper articles, patient testimonials on TV and a TV breakfast show appearance. They conducted an education session with a health facility and on WHD itself organised a community march where healthcare workers were tested and vaccinated.

WHO Country Office in Kenya shared a number of tweets highlighting the burden of hepatitis B and C among Kenyans.

Other participating organisations:
- LVCT Health
- National Public Health Laboratories

Lesotho

No participation reported

Liberia

Awareness
Education
Vaccination
Policy
Media coverage

In the lead up to WHD, WHA member Liberia National Hepatitis Foundation ran awareness and vaccination campaigns at the AM Dogliotti Medical College and the Bluecrest University Campus.

Madagascar

Education
Vaccination
Policy
Media coverage

The Ministry of Health celebrated WHD with a scientific conference at Centre hospitalier universitaire Joseph Ravoahangy Andrianavalona (HIRA). The Ministry made an official video declaration at the event that was shared through their Facebook page. In the declaration and through media coverage the Ministry highlighted the mass vaccination campaign that they have been running since April, encouraging people to get vaccinated.

WHO Country Office in Madagascar shared posts on Facebook to raise awareness of the global burden.
**Malawi**

The **Ministry of Health** held a WHD commemoration in Chikwawa district under the theme of "eliminate hepatitis". At the event they revealed 15% of clients who have visited the Kamuzu Central Hospital have hepatitis and thus calling for greater awareness campaigns to tackle this. The Ministry noted that they have formed a taskforce to mobilise resources to conduct a national survey on viral hepatitis. WHA member **Patient and Community Welfare Foundation** was in attendance and shared its commitment to working with the government.

**Mali**

The **Ministry of Health** held a WHD event to discuss the national response to viral hepatitis. The event was attended by government representatives, doctors, patients and civil society organisations, including WHA member **PILS (Prévention Information Lutte contre le SIDA)**. At the event PILS stressed the need for more awareness and a robust national hepatitis management plan. WHA member PILS also held a WHD workshop and promoted the #ShowYourFace campaign through Facebook.

**Mauritania**

To celebrate WHD the National Centre for Hepatology and Virology held an event under the theme of "eliminate hepatitis" in partnership with WHO Country Office in Mauritania. The event aimed to raise awareness of the importance of prevention and the Secretary General of the **Ministry of Health**, Ahmed Ould Dié, stressed that hepatitis is considered a public health problem.
gastroenterologists.

Other participating organisations:
- CAP Research
- National AIDS Secretariat

WHO Country Office in Namibia raised awareness by sharing posts about access to treatment via their Facebook page.

Other participating organisations:
- UN Namibia
- CDC Namibia

WHO Country Office in Niger shared posts on Facebook to raise awareness of the global burden.

WHO Country Office in Mozambique

Other participating organisations:
- ONU Mulheres Moçambique

WHO Country Office in Nigeria

WHO member Beacon Youth Initiative (BYI) organised a media chat that was featured on the state radio and TV station and addressed the myths around hepatitis and encouraged testing, vaccination and healthy lifestyle practices. They held an awareness rally campaign with hepatitis songs, stickers and leaflets. Free hepatitis B and C testing and hepatitis B vaccination was also conducted.

WHO member Chagro-Care Trust (CCT) organised a rally throughout Jalingo and health education in prisons. At Taraba State University the organisation held a public health lecture where free hepatitis B and C testing was available.

WHO member Elohim Foundation held a day-long event that started with a road show where flyers were distributed among the public and was attended by broadcasters and journalists. The event then continued with a conference that...
planned activities included talks from representatives from the Federal Capital Territory Department of Health. Free testing was available at the event and the NOhep documentary was shown to participants.

WHA member Gammon Centre for Care and Development participated in a radio show to raise awareness and promoted WHD through social media.

WHA member Grassroot Economic Empowerment Initiative (GREENProject) organised a charity concert that included free hepatitis B and C testing and a prize raffle.

WHA member Livewell Initiative (LWI), in partnership with its subsidiary Women in Hepatitis Africa (WIHA), conducted an advocacy, awareness and screening programme in Abuja, which was attended by top functionaries including Senior Special Advisers to the President, The Deputy Chief of Staff, and Protocol Officials at the Presidency among others. During the event 155 people were screened for hepatitis B and C. In Lagos, LWI and WHA held a workplace liver health awareness and hepatitis screening programme where they raised awareness of the benefits of liver health and hepatitis screening. Subsidised vaccination was given to members of the public who tested negative after hepatitis B testing.

To support the 'eliminate hepatitis' theme, WHA member Seham Health Care Foundation (SHECA) developed the 'eliminate hepatitis pata pata by 2030' campaign for Nigeria. This included events across the country in Kebbi, Abuja, Enugu, Port Harcourt, Lagos and Ile-Ife where in each location they held a walk for life and lawn tennis advocacy match. Their campaign received support from a number of Nigerian celebrities including Royal Ambassador His Imperial Majesty Ooni Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja, Rt. Gen Yakubu Gowon, actress Funke Akindele-Bello and musician Puffy Tee.

WHA member Women and Children Health Empowerment Foundation organised a health talk at a local market in Jalingo. The event then continued at a nearby community clinic where testing, counselling and vaccination were carried out.

The Ministry of Health participated in an awareness walk and addressed journalists to advocate for routine testing and vaccination.

Other participating organisations:
- Daniel Iroegbu Global Health Foundation
- GIRH
- Golden Cross Agency
- Joy Chinnonye Foundation
- Malady Chase Foundation
- May Palette
- National Youth Service Corp (NYSC)
- Obijackson Women and Children Hospital
- PreDiagn
- Tiwalade Olumade Trust
- Trinity Healthcare Foundation
- VSO Nigeria

The Ministry of Health carried out a series of WHD events that aimed at uniting stakeholders and boosting prevention, access to testing and treatment and care. They carried out a mass awareness campaign and focused on widespread testing and vaccination. During the campaign approximately 250,000 were tested for hepatitis B and C and over 15,000 were vaccinated against hepatitis B. They targeted at-risk groups such as healthcare professionals and prisoners in particular and specifically went to 30 district hospital and 15 prison health dispensaries to carry this out.

WHO Country Office in Rwanda posted a number of tweets to raise awareness on WHD.

Sao Tome and Principe

No participation reported
The Ministry of Health held an event for WHD where they highlighted the progress that Senegal has made against hepatitis in particular the implementation of universal hepatitis B vaccination. The event was shown on national TV.

WHA member Saafara Hépatites Sénégal shared information on viral hepatitis through their Facebook page to raise awareness. They also actively participated in and promoted the #ShowYourFace campaign.

On WHD the Ministry of Health and the WHO Country Office in Sierra Leone partnered with civil society organisations The National Hepatitis Alliance Sierra Leone and Sierra Liver Foundation for the first National Seminar on Hepatitis in Sierra Leone under the theme of “eliminate hepatitis”. The event was attended by over 600 people and included a song from musician Daniel Bangura. The organisations also encouraged attendees to participate in the #ShowYourFace campaign.

 Ahead of WHD, the National Hepatitis Alliance ran media outreach to raise awareness. The organisation visited a secondary school to hold an awareness talk among the students and held a hepatitis B screening for pharmacy students where 180 people were tested.

WHO Country Office in Sierra Leone also raised awareness through their social media channels.

To mark WHD the Ministry of Health organised a number of awareness sessions to educate the public on viral hepatitis. On 26 July law enforcement officers attended a session that provided information on hepatitis C, the principles of harm reduction, how to dispose syringes safely and the rationale behind the needle exchange programme. Secondary students also took part in a workshop to learn more about the disease. The Minister of Health made a national address outlining the importance of tackling viral hepatitis.

The South African Government promoted WHD through its website while the National Department of Health (South Africa) raised awareness on Facebook.

Other participating organisations:
- Hepatitis Foundation South Africa
- KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health
- Lancet Laboratories
- South African Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance
- Stellenbosch University
- Western Cape Provincial Government (WCPG)
The Ministry of Health and WHO Country Office in South Sudan participated in an event under the theme of "eliminate hepatitis" at the University of Juba. The campaign itself kicked off in the country on 24 July with a series of TV and radio talk shows to raise awareness. On WHD a public lecture was helped to answer questions on transmission, prevention and control. Dr Pinyi Nyimol Mawien, the Director General for Preventive Health Services at the Ministry of Health, highlighted the national burden and the representative from WHO Country Office in South Sudan read the WHO Regional Director’s message, urging for action to implement prevention and treatment interventions. As well as officials from the Ministry of Health and WHO staff, the event was also attended by healthcare professionals, students and the media.

The Ministry of Health and WHO Country Office in Swaziland published an article on WHD and their WHO Regional Director’s message in a national newspaper.

WHA member Association Sauvons l’Afrique Des Hépatites (ASADH) used WHD to encourage people to get tested and vaccinated against hepatitis B.

Civil society organisation Ligue Togolaise de Lutte contre les Hépatites (LTLH) held a press conference to mark WHD. The representative from WHO Country Office in Togo spoke at the event, highlighting the importance of raising awareness.
NOPLHB, Uganda

WHO member The National Organisation for People Living with Hepatitis B (NOPLHB) held a Viral Hepatitis Symposium where speeches were delivered by the Ministry of Health, the HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis focal point for WHO Country Office in Uganda, the Uganda National Health Laboratory Services and hepatologists.

NOPLHB organised a commemorative event at the Makerere University Sports grounds where people were tested and vaccinated and held an awareness walk. Executive Director of NOPLHB appeared on national TV to raise awareness.

Other participating organisations:
- International Health Sciences University (IHSU)
- MBN laboratories
- Norvik Hospital
- Save Your Liver Foundation
- Uganda Gastroenterology Society
- Uganda National Health Laboratory Services
- Uganda Police
- UMC Victoria Hospital

United Republic of Tanzania

Tanzania Hepatitis Free Community, Tanzania

The Ministry of Health held a press conference on WHD to educate the community about hepatitis. In a statement the Minister highlighted the steps the government has taken to tackle the disease such as establishing a national task force and proving hepatitis B vaccines to healthcare workers. The Minister also noted that Tanzania hopes to increase hepatitis B vaccine coverage so that all people can be vaccinated.

Other participating organisations:
- Tanzania Hepatitis Free Community
- Tanzania Medical Students’ Association (TAMSA)

Zambia

No participation reported

Zimbabwe

The Ministry of Health showed its support for WHD through social media by tweeting about this year’s theme ‘eliminate hepatitis’.
Americas region

PARTICIPATION STATISTICS
28 countries participating
80% of region participating
19 governments participating
21 WHO Country Offices participating
68,569 people attended events

*where reported, numbers likely to be higher

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN 2017
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela
The countries of the Americas are taking action to eliminate viral hepatitis, although challenges remain in the detection and diagnosis of this disease, which can lead to cirrhosis, liver cancer, and even death if not treated on time.

In the Americas, an estimated 2.8 million people have chronic hepatitis B infection and an estimated 7.2 million have chronic hepatitis C infection. Of the latter, three out of every four people do not know that they are infected by the virus. It is estimated that hepatitis B and C cause around 125,000 deaths each year –– more deaths than are caused by tuberculosis and HIV infection combined.

On World Hepatitis Day, July 28th, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) highlights the commitment of its Member States to eliminating this disease, while continuing to advocate for an organized response to prevention, detection, and treatment for people who need it.

"The countries of the Americas are making very great efforts to implement actions and policies that will lead to the elimination of hepatitis, especially preventing hepatitis B and curing hepatitis C," said Massimo Ghidinelli, chief of the HIV, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and Sexually Transmitted Infections unit at PAHO/WHO. "However, it is a silent epidemic because infected people do not present symptoms until the liver has already been damaged. That is why it is important for the countries to step up efforts to reach the goal of eliminating hepatitis as a public health problem in the Region by 2030," he said.

According to a PAHO/WHO survey in May 2017, at least 21 of the 25 countries surveyed in the Region of the Americas have created frameworks within their Ministries of Health that are now addressing and implementing hepatitis response measures.

The Region has also made major efforts in terms of vaccination against hepatitis B. All countries vaccinate children under 1 year of age against hepatitis B, and 22 of those countries now do so within the first 24 hours of birth, as recommended by WHO.

Furthermore, 24 of the 31 countries surveyed in the Americas systematically monitor pregnant women for hepatitis. Hepatitis B can be transmitted from mother to child during childbirth, among other ways. However, newborn vaccination can prevent infection in 95% of cases, offering future generations lifelong protection against this infection.

Of the 7.2 million people living with chronic hepatitis C in the Region, only 300,000 (4%) receive treatment. Although newly available treatments have the potential to cure over 90% of people infected with hepatitis C and reduce the risk of death due to liver cancer or cirrhosis, they are still not accessible to everyone because of their high cost. Only 18 countries fund them, according to the PAHO report "Hepatitis B and C in the Spotlight", published in January 2017.

In February 2017, the PAHO Strategic Fund included high-cost medicines for the treatment of hepatitis C at affordable prices, giving the countries of the Americas access to the most effective options for hepatitis treatment –– an initiative proposed by the countries of the Region on different occasions. The PAHO Strategic Fund is a collective mechanism for the pooled procurement of essential medicines and strategic health supplies for the countries of the Region.

In 2015, Ministers of Health from throughout the Americas agreed on a series of actions (included in PAHO’s Regional Plan for Viral Hepatitis 2015-2019) to prevent and control viral hepatitis infection, with an emphasis on hepatitis B and C. The global aim is to eliminate hepatitis as a public health problem by 2030. Among other actions, the Plan calls on countries to create national plans, extend vaccination against hepatitis B to all children under 1 year old and to high-risk and vulnerable population groups, conduct information campaigns, and seek ways to expand access to medicines.

This year’s slogan for World Hepatitis Day is “Eliminate Hepatitis” –– a call to step up actions to reach the health targets set in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. PAHO has launched a campaign that includes infographics, videos, and social media to provide information on hepatitis prevention and treatment.
Argentina

- Awareness
- Education
- Testing
- Vaccination

WHO member Fundación HCV Sin Fronteras coordinated WHD across Argentina and ran the official WHD in Argentina website that included a calendar of events, materials and an Argentine adaption of the #ShowYourFace campaign - #yoestoy. They organised training and information sessions for health and community stakeholders and held testing events. Hepatitis C Rosario added to WHO efforts by raising awareness on their website as well as an event to launch the book "Silent reality" (Hepatitis C and the soul).

The Ministry of Health coordinated rapid hepatitis C tests.

WHO Country Office in Argentina disseminated key information on Facebook via engaging graphics and infographics.

Other participating organisations:
- ANLIS (Administración Nacional de Laboratorios e Institutos de Salud)
- Argentine Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
- Bristol and Abbvie Laboratories
- British Hospital of Buenos Aires
- Buenos Aires City Government
- Cento Yaganes

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- Buenos Aires City Government
- Cento Yaganes
Barbados

- **Awareness**

Other participating organisations:
- EU to Barbados, Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS, Caricom & Cariforum

Belize

No participation reported

Bolivia

- **Awareness**
- **Vaccination**

The Ministry of Health and Environment Government of Santa Cruz conducted vaccination drives to mark WHD. In addition the Ministry of Health raised awareness of the day by posting on social media. The WHO Country Office for Bolivia also used Facebook to disseminate graphics and updates.

Other participating organisations:
- Departmental Health Service (SEDES, Chaco Chuquechuan)
- Ministry of Health and Environment
- Government of Santa
- The Liver Clinic

Brazil

- **Awareness**
- **Education**
- **Testing**
- **Policy**
- **Media coverage**

WHA member Hepatite Zero (Associação Brasileira dos Portadores de Hepatite) coordinated testing activities throughout the country alongside promoting the Hep Zero campaign. They also released a video in celebration of the day. Ong C Tem Que Saber C Tem Que Curar also released a video which included infectious physician, Dr. Alexandre Naime Barbosa. They also organised a series of education lectures and testing clinics. WHA member Grupo Otomismo held a workshop on Diagnosis and Access to Treatment.

The Ministry of Health announced the removal of restrictions on hepatitis C treatments. They also launched the Yellow July campaign, which included TV adverts about the risks of hepatitis and running a number of testing clinics throughout the country. Both the Ministry of Health and the WHO Country Office raised awareness on social media. The dome of the Senate and Annex 1 of the National Congress building was illuminated yellow for a week over WHD. Each city and regional health department across the country offered free hepatitis testing.

Other participating organisations:
- Ministry of Health, Brazil
- Hepatitis Zero, Brazil
- Hepatitis Zero, Brazil
- Liga Acadêmica de Hepatologia – LAHEP, Brazil
- Centre for the Application and Monitoring of Injectable Drugs
- Department of Epidemiological Surveillance of Piraquara
- Dom Helder Câmara Hospital (HDH)
- Foundation for Medical and Hospital Development
- Health Department of Pernambuco
- Health Department of the State of Ceará
- Hepatitis Support Group
- Hospital Materno Infantil Presidente
- Hospital Miguel Arauás
- Hospital Miguel Araués (HMA)
- Laboratory and the Epidemiological Surveillance Nucleus
- Municipal Health Department of Marechal Rondon
- Municipal Health Secretariat of Fortaleza
- NGO ABC Life
- Núcleo de Assistência aos Pacientes Hepáticos (NAPHE)
- Picos Testing and Counseling Center
- School Hospital of the Federal University of Pelotas
- Social Forum for Confronting Infectious and Neglected Diseases (FSEDN)
- Social Service of Commerce (SESC)
- UNAERP
- USF Jardim Marchesi
Hepatitis Resources, Canada

HepCBC, Canada

HepCBC, Canada

HepCBC, Canada

Canada

WHA member CAPAHC created videos to raise awareness on social media while Blood Ties Four Directions Centre organised their annual carnival and barbeque and provided free tests. The Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) held their sixth annual event at Ottawa City Hall. Hep CBC organised a series of activities which included a rally event and educational talks. They also helped light up two buildings in Vancouver to commemorate the day. Hepatitis Resources made an announcement that they will open a Viral Hepatitis Clinic.

Other participating organisations:
- ACCM
- AIDS Committee of North Bay & Area
- AIDS Community Centre Montreal
- AIDS New Brunswick
- AIDS PEI
- AIDS Saint John
- AIDS Saskatoon
- AIDS Vancouver Island
- All Nations Hope Network
- ANKORS
- ARCH Guelph
- Ask Wellness
- BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE)
- Blood Ties Four Directions Centre Society
- Bloom Clinic (WellFort Community Health Services
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Canadian Network on Hep C
- Canadian Network on Hepatitis C (CanHepC)
- CATIE
- Central health
- Chinese Health Supprt Group / Chinese Community Health Society
- CSIH
- CUPS Medical Clinic
- Durham Community Health Centre
- Durham Region Health Department
- Hemophilia Ontario
- Hepatitis Outreach Society of Nova Scotia
- HepCBC Hepatitis C Education & Prevention Society
- HP Connecting Health Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic
- HIV North Society
- HIV West Yellowhead
- Kingston Street Health Centre
- l’ARCHE de l’Estrie
- Lookout Emergency Aid Society
- Lower Mainland Purpose Society
- Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region
- Mission Friendship Centre Society
- Native Women’s Association of Canada
- Niagara Health System - Hepatitis C Care Clinic
- Niagara Region Liver Centre – Liver Care Canada
- Northern Healthy Connections Society (NHCS)
- Northern Health Authority
- Street Health Centre
- Viral Hepatitis Program
- Toronto Community Hep C Program
- Toronto Public Health
- Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre (VIDC)
- VIRCAN Care and Research Inc.
- Welllington Dufferin Guelph Public Health
- Whitesand First Nation
- Windsor-Essex Community Health Centre
- Youth Resources Niagara

The City of Niagara Falls lit up Niagara Falls and the Skylon Tower in green to celebrate the day.

Other participating organisations:
- Cesfam Centro Oriente
- Cesfam Centro Sur
- CGR María Elena
- CESFAM Central
- Chiloe Health Service
- Hospital Carlos Cisterna de Calama
- Hospital de La Serena
- Hospital Sotero del Rio
- Ottawa Liver Centre – Liver Care Canada
- Play It Safer Network
- Positive Living Fraser Valley Society (PLFV)
- Prince Albert Parkland Health Region
- Saskatchewan Infectious Disease Care Network Inc.
- SICDN
- Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority
- Street Health Centre
- Street Project – Population and Public Health Services
- Stormont–Dundas–Ottawa Public Health
- The Ottawa Hospital & Regional
- Sturgeon Lake Health
- Hematology Program
- Toronto Community Hep C Program
- Toronto Public Health
- Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre (VIDC)
- VIRCAN Care and Research Inc.
- Welllington Dufferin Guelph Public Health
- Whitesand First Nation
- Windsor-Essex Community Health Centre
- Youth Resources Niagara

The Ministry of Health used social media to raise awareness of WHD. They also teamed up with Pan American Health Organization to organise an awareness campaign in a subway station in Santiago.

Other participating organisations:
- Hospital Tome
- Seremi de Salud
- Servicio de salud de Antofagasta
- Talcahuano Health Service network
- University of Biobío
Colombia

The WHO Country Office and Ministry of Health and Social Protection shared a series of informational graphics and awareness raising posts on social media.

Other participating organisations:
- Alcaldía Victoria Caldas
- Bogotá Footprints of Art
- Caldas Regional Health Service
- COOMEVA
- ESE San Miguel
- Faro Corporation
- Hospital San Cayetano
- Red Somos Colombia
- Secretary of Departmental Health - Magdalena
- Seguros Mapfre
- University of Antioquia

Costa Rica

The WHO Country Office shared a series of informational graphics and awareness raising posts on social media.

Other participating organisations:
- College of Nurses

Dominican Republic

The Ministry of Health shared a series of informational graphics and awareness raising posts on social media.

Other participating organisations:
- The Foundation of Patients with Hepatitis B, C and other Immunological Diseases in the Dominican Republic (FUNPAHEINM).

Cuba

To celebrate WHD, the Ministry of Health held an educational event.

Other participating organisations:
- Cuban Society of Gastroenterology
- Instituto de Hematología e Immunología

Dominica

No participation reported
The WHO Country Office in El Salvador shared a series of informational graphics and awareness raising posts on social media.

Other participating organisations:
- Vacunamed

The WHO Country Office in Guatemala shared a series of informational graphics and awareness raising posts on social media.

Other participating organisations:
- Asociación Guatemalteca del Hígado
- HepCBC
- Hepatitis B Foundation
- Asian Pacific Community in Action
- San Francisco Hepatitis C Task Force

The Ministry of Health implemented a Facebook photo campaign and the WHO Country Office hosted an awareness raising video campaign.

No participation reported.

No participation reported.
Fundación Hepatos Aion, AC used community activities to raise awareness.

The Ministry of Health used Facebook as their primary platform to raise awareness of their policy vision. Posts were authored from Gomez Monge & Armando Ahued, Secretary of Health, explaining that their strategy aims to prevent 90 percent of cases of hepatitis B and C by 2030. The WHO Country Office in Mexico also shared a series of informational graphics and awareness raising posts on social media.

Other participating organisations:
- DKT Mexico

Honduras

The WHO Country Office and Ministry of Health shared a series of informational graphics and awareness raising posts on social media.

Jamaica

Media coverage

The WHO Country Office and Ministry of Health shared a series of informational graphics and awareness raising posts on social media.

Mexico

Awareness
Education
Vaccination

WHA member Fundación Mexicana Para La Salud Hepática A.C. (FundHepa) organised a national forum on liver disease which was attended by hepatologists, nursing staff and patients as well as the participation of the Secretary of Health, Dr. José Narro Robles. The event was a huge success gaining the attention of national media. Grupo de Autoayuda Unidos por una Vida Mejor also spoke at this forum.

Nicaragua

Media coverage

The WHO Country Office and Ministry of Health shared a series of informational graphics and awareness raising posts on social media.

Panama

The WHO Country Office in Panama and Ministry of Health shared a series of informational graphics and awareness raising posts on social media.

Other participating organisations:
- Hepatitis Panama
- Hospital Santo Tomás
Americas region

Paraguay

The WHO Country Office in Paraguay and the Ministry of Health shared a series of informational videos and awareness raising posts on social media.

Awareness

Peru

WHO member Voces Ciudadanas (Asociacion Ciudadana de lucha contra Hepatitis) used patient testimonials to raise awareness of viral hepatitis.

The WHO Country Office in Peru shared a series of informational tweets on social media.

Other participating organisations:
- RIMAC - ESTAR BIEN

Saint Kitts and Nevis

PAHO disseminated a press release on the successful approach to hepatitis in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Saint Lucia

No participation reported

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

No participation reported

Suriname

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Americas region

World Hepatitis Day 2017 Global Summary Report
The Ministry of Health shared awareness raising posts on social media.

WHA member the American Liver Foundation organised a giant billboard in central New York to raise awareness. WHA member Hepatitis B Foundation convened the Hep B United National Summit on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. to raise awareness of hepatitis B. More than 80 partner organisations attended including WHA members HBI-Minnesota, Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC (HBI-DC) and the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD). HBI-Minnesota also celebrated the day by organising a hepatitis B and C testing event for the Ethiopian community and met with policymakers to discuss hepatitis B national policy. The Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC (HBI-DC) organised free screening events. In Honolulu, Hep Free Hawaii held a hepatitis C educational seminar and organised Point of Care testing at a syringe exchange. They also participated in Hep B United’s social media activities. The San Francisco Hep C Task Force celebrated the day in a number of ways from lighting up San Francisco’s City Hall to organising free testing drives. They also organised a community meeting “Tales from the Cured” which brought people together to share treatment success stories and learn about new ways to make treatment more accessible. Liver Health Connection organised a free testing event for people in Denver. This was supported by WHA member The Bonnie Morgan Foundation for HCV, who also disseminated awareness raising materials in local clinics. The Hepatitis Education Project and The Community Health Outreach Work to Prevent AIDS Project (CHOW Project) also provided free screening. The Hepatitis C Mentor & Support Group, Inc. (HCMSG) organised a hepatitis C meeting in New York. Both the Laotian American National Alliance (LANA) and Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) released videos to commemorate the day. Caring Ambassadors Program, Project Inform, Charles B Wang Community Health Centre, Global Liver Institute, H.E.A.L.S of the South, Hepatitis C Support Project, Climbing for Carleen, National Association of Hepatitis Task Forces (NAHTF) and MONOReform Foundation all contributed to the day by partaking in social media activities.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention participated on WHD through social media. Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB, Dr Jono Mermin participated in the #ShowYourFace campaign.

Other participating organisations:
- Alliance for Positive Change
- Asian Liver Center
- Asian Pacific Community in Action
- Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
- End Hep C SF
- Family Resource Center
- Fcc Florida Career College
- HCMSG-The Hepatitis C Mentor and Support
- Hep C Global Initiatives
- Miami Beach Community Health Center
- Pikeville Medical Centre
- RI Defeats Hep C
- Saint Barnabas Medical Center
- UT Health San Antonio
- Ventanilla de Salud de NY
- Vision Home Health Care
- Voices Of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-NY)
WHA member APAHE convened a meeting with the general public, patients and their families, hepatologists and a group of lawyers of the Public University, whose specialty is human rights in relation to health. The Uruguayan Society of Gastroenterology along with Health Foundation and the president of APAHE presented a document to the Health Commission of Senators calling for better diagnosis and treatment for people living with hepatitis C. APAHE also organised free testing and raised awareness of hepatitis through disseminating informational materials. Asociacion Comunidad Hepatitis C Uruguay (ACHC) contributed to the day by partaking in social media activities.

The WHO Country Office in Uruguay shared a series of informational tweets on social media.

Other participating organisations:
- Society of Gastroenterology Uruguay
- Gastroenterology Clinic

Venezuela

WHA member Hepatitis C Venezuela contributed to the day by partaking in social media activities.
PARTICIPATION STATISTICS
21 countries participating
91% of region participating
9 governments participating
7 WHO Country Offices participating
1981 people attended events*
669 people tested*
178 people vaccinated*
*where reported, numbers likely to be higher

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN 2017
Afghanistan
Bahrain
Egypt
Iran
Jordan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Libya
Morocco
Oman
Pakistan
Palestine (Occupied territory)
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Somalia
Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisia
United Arab Emirates
Yemen
Viral hepatitis is a major global epidemic that takes a heavy toll on human lives all around the world, however, was not considered a public health priority in the past. Today we have very powerful tools to prevent and treat viral hepatitis and we should wait no more. For this reason, WHO designated 28 July of every year as World Hepatitis Day. This occasion is a call for concerted global efforts aimed at heightening commitment, raising awareness and stepping up action to put an end to suffering due to viral hepatitis.

Our region has the highest prevalence of viral hepatitis C in the world. WHO estimates that more than 15 million people in the Region are currently chronically infected with hepatitis C, and 21 million with hepatitis B. Unfortunately, many people in the Region still acquire hepatitis B and C in the place where they least expect to, in health care settings, through unsafe injections and inadequately screened blood transfusions. Mother-to-child transmission is the main cause of hepatitis B among children. Furthermore, many people who are at risk of HIV are also at risk of hepatitis B and C infections, due to unsafe sexual practices or injecting drug use. Yet we have a wealth of evidence on how these transmissions can be prevented. We have missed past opportunities but we are now on the right path.

At the 67th session of the World Health Assembly, Member States adopted a comprehensive resolution urging countries to develop and implement coordinated multi-sectoral national plans for preventing, diagnosing, and treating viral hepatitis. In parallel, WHO developed the first ever Global Health Sector Strategy for Viral Hepatitis. This strategy is rooted in the global commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and to universal health coverage, and sets out a vision towards eliminating viral hepatitis globally by 2030.

At the regional level, WHO has given special priority to hepatitis B and C prevention, diagnosis and treatment. To guide implementation of the Global Health Sector Strategy for Viral Hepatitis within our region, a regional action plan for the hepatitis response was developed, and was endorsed by the Member States in 2016.

In this respect, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Member States in our Region. Three countries are now producing generic antivirals, which allow them to treat their patients at affordable cost. Over one million people have been treated with the new direct acting antivirals for Hepatitis C alone in Egypt. I commend these efforts and call for accelerated action. Many patients are waiting for us to make treatment with those medicines available, affordable and accessible.

The theme and message of this year’s World Hepatitis Day is “Eliminate Hepatitis”. On this occasion, I call upon all Member States, local and international partners and civil society groups to join hands with WHO to reach this noble goal. No one should die of viral hepatitis and no one should get infected when we know how to prevent it.

Finally, I would like to assure you that WHO will continue to support and work closely with Member States and other partners to implement and scale up all interventions for viral hepatitis control, including providing birth-dose vaccination against hepatitis B, enhancing prevention strategies and ensuring equitable access to quality diagnosis and treatment; until hepatitis is eliminated from our region.

Thank you.
Afghanistan

The Ministry of Public Health and WHO Country Office in Afghanistan held a joint press conference to call for urgent action to strengthen prevention and screening services.

Bahrain

The Ministry of Health held an event under the theme “eliminate hepatitis” that aimed at highlighting national efforts to tackle the disease and encourage participation. They also promoted this through Instagram.

Egypt

The Ministry of Health commemorated WHD by illuminating several of the country’s landmarks green including the Giza Pyramids, the Cairo Tower and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This was a joint initiative with the WHO Country Office in Egypt and the World Bank. The Ministry of Health organised a press conference to highlight the government’s efforts to eliminate hepatitis from the country.

WHO Country Office in Egypt launched a social media campaign with information, education and communication materials produced in Arabic.

WHA member Association of Liver Patients Care (ALPC) organised a number of activities including a concert, competitions, a children’s fun day with prize giveaways and a magic show and a cartoon film raising awareness of hepatitis transmission routes. The organisation also distributed promotional T-shirts, wall calendars and flyers as well as providing free hepatitis B and C screening and liver function tests.

Famous Egyptian footballer Ahmed Hassan took part in a special WHD event organised to fight hepatitis C.

Other participating organisations:
- Al Borg Laboratories
- Arab Center for Health Awareness
- Arab Doctors Union
- IFHSA-Egypt
- International Union of Medical Students in Egypt
- Monsoura Medical Faculty
- National Research Centre

Djibouti

No participation reported
Iran

WHA member Iran Hepatitis Network held a WHD press conference with clinicians, actors and representatives from the National Blood Transfusion Organisation.

Other participating organisations:
- Iraqi Pharmaceutical Students’ Team IPST

Jordan

WHO Country Office in Jordan retweeted WHO EMRO tweets to help raise awareness.

Other participating organisations:
- Student Club of Jordan Universities

Kuwait

On WHD Minister of Health Dr. Jamal Al-Harbi announced that since 2002 the Mercy Medical Committee has established more than 50 medical camps that help test and deliver care for viral hepatitis. The Information Office of the Ministry of Health also launched an awareness campaign under the theme of “eliminate hepatitis”. This included posters on social media, an awareness film and media outreach.

Other participating organisations:
- Almeer Technical Services
- Wahaj Al-Hayat Foundation

Lebanon

Minister of Public Health, Waël Abu Faour, held a press conference under the theme of “eliminate hepatitis”. He stressed that the Ministry hopes that through immunisation, education and treatment that Lebanon will be one of the first countries to eliminate hepatitis, even before 2030.

WHA member Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire (SIDC) marked WHD by taking its mobile testing units to the street to test people for hepatitis B and C, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as people who inject drugs. They also raised awareness through their Facebook page and actively participated in and promoted the #ShowYourFace campaign.
At an event organised under the theme of “eliminate hepatitis”, the Ministry of Health reported that it has developed a new national programme to eliminate hepatitis C. They also announced the launch of an epidemiological study to better understand the epidemic in Morocco and support the strategy.

WHA member Association de Lutte Contre les Hépatites (ALCH Maroc) raised awareness with posts through their Facebook page.

Other participating organisations:
- Al-Mansheya Treatment Center
- Blood Bank Tripoli Medical Center
- Libyan University of Medical Sciences
- Red Crescent

At an event organised under the theme of “eliminate hepatitis”, the Ministry of Health reported that it has developed a new national programme to eliminate hepatitis C. They also announced the launch of an epidemiological study to better understand the epidemic in Morocco and support the strategy.

WHA member Association de Lutte contre le sida (ALCS)-Tanger participated in and actively promoted the #ShowYourFace campaign.

WHA member Life Foundation organised an awareness walk with more than 1500 students and patients. As part of their awareness over 4000 leaflets were distributed. They also conducted hepatitis B and C tests among 369 people.

WHA member The Health Foundation organised a number of activities for WHD. In Karachi they held an awareness walk under the theme of "Pakistan Hepatitis Free", awareness sessions at Geo News to answer employees questions on hepatitis B and C and conducted free hepatitis B and C screening among the 268 employees. In Kandiari they held an awareness seminar that was attended by the regional government hepatitis focal point, businessmen, tribal leaders, students and members of the public. An awareness walk took place following the seminar. In Thar another awareness walk and seminar took place. In Ghotki the organisation celebrated WHD with community members by holding a motorbike rally. Throughout the rally leaflets were distributed among the public. In Tando Allayar they organised a seminar for
staff of Bilquis Mushaf Hospital. Staff then participated in an awareness walk to mark the day. An awareness walk, awareness sessions at the Ganga Ram Hospital and free hepatitis B vaccination was organised in Lahore.

WHA member The Organization for empowerment through education and health (OETEH) held an awareness walk to mark WHD.

WHA member Zhwandoon Welfare Organisation organised an awareness conference and walk that was attended by the director of the regional government’s hepatitis control programme.

The Ministry of Health held a National Hepatitis Seminar that gave an overview of the Pakistan’s response to viral hepatitis, included patient testimonials and highlighted the country’s commitment to eliminating hepatitis by 2030. The event was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Health, the WHO Regional Director, provincial health ministers and representatives from the CDC. The event ended with a declaration to eliminate hepatitis by 2030, signed by ministers and policy makers.

As part of its WHD celebrations, WHO published an article on the hepatitis C situation in Pakistan, a country with one of the highest burdens in the world. The article highlighted the efforts been made to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment. It also noted that Pakistan Ministry of Health launches its first National Hepatitis Strategic Framework in August 2017.

Other participating organisations:
- Bilawal Center, District Headquarters Hospital
- Consultative Group for Development Cooperation
- DHA
- Hepatitis Prevention and Control Programme Sindh
- Indus Medical College Hospital
- Islamabad Gastroenterology Associates
- MSF Pakistan
- NGM Foundation
- Pak Medical Centre
- Pak Welfare Foundation
- Pakistan Health Research Council (PHRC)
- Pakistan Kidney & Liver Institute and Research Centre (PKLI&RC)
- Pakistan Liver Foundation
- Punjab Government
- Sahkar Foundation
- Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation

Other participating organisations:
- Palestine Medical Complex

Other participating organisations:
- Al Ahli Hospital
- Hamad Medical Corporation
- Primary Health Care Corporation
- Qatar Red Crescent

IFMSA, Egypt

Zhwandoon Welfare Organisation, Pakistan

Al Borg, Egypt

PKLI & RC, Pakistan
Saudi Arabia

The Ministry of Health raised awareness by sharing new data from WHO through their website.

Other participating organisations:
- Saudi Society of Liver Patients

Other participating organisations:
- Saudi Society of Liver Patients

Somalia

The Health Foundation, Pakistan

Other participating organisations:
- Somali Medical Student Association (SOMSA), Somalia
- Dulle Specialist Hospital
- Somali Medical Student Association (SOMSA)

Other participating organisations:
- Health Directorate of Hama
- The Assistance Coordination Unit

Sudan

WHO Country Office in Sudan raised awareness by sharing infographics through Facebook.

Other participating organisations:
- IFMSA, Egypt
- The Health Foundation, Pakistan
- ALPC, Egypt

Syrian Arab Republic

Health Directorate of Hama raised awareness of WHD through Facebook posts to their followers.

Other participating organisations:
- IFMSA, Egypt
- The Health Foundation, Pakistan
- ALPC, Egypt

Other participating organisations:
- The Assistance Coordination Unit
On WHD the Minister of Health Samira Marei launched an awareness campaign. The Ministry also announced that over 30,000 children in Tunisia have now been vaccinated against hepatitis B and that drinking water is being provided to all educational institutions to prevent the spread of hepatitis A and E.

The Ministry of Public Health and Population organised a ceremony with the Wahaj Al-Hayat Foundation to mark WHD. The event included speeches and presentations on hepatitis and the national and community campaigns to tackle the disease.

WHO Country Office in Yemen raised awareness through efforts on social media.

Other participating organisations:
- Al-Razi University
- My Health Organisation
European region

**PARTICIPATION STATISTICS**

- 48 countries participating
- 91% of region participating
- 57 governments participating
- 8 WHO Country Offices participating
- 14,657 people attended events*
- 14,322 people tested*
- 125 people vaccinated*

*where reported, numbers likely to be higher

**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN 2017**

- Albania
- Andorra
- Armenia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Kazakhstan
- Kosovo
- Kyrgyzstan
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Uzbekistan
The world is poised to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. This will mean achieving a 90% reduction in new infections and a 65% reduction in deaths in the period leading up to 2030.

More than 400 people die from causes related to viral hepatitis every day in the WHO European Region, and the numbers are rising. It is estimated that more than 15 million people are chronically infected with hepatitis B virus and another 14 million people with hepatitis C virus. Approximately two thirds of chronic hepatitis infections in the Region occur in eastern Europe and central Asia.

The campaign for this year’s World Hepatitis Day, held annually on 28 July, is “Eliminate hepatitis”. It commemorates global, regional and country efforts to combat viral hepatitis and provides a powerful opportunity to increase public awareness of the devastating disease, advocating improved access to and availability of testing, treatment and preventive measures.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV)

A vaccine is 95% effective in preventing HBV infection and its chronic consequences, which include liver cancer. Universal HBV vaccination programmes for infants, with the first dose at birth, have been highly effective in reducing the number of infections, but much more needs to be done.

It is vital that routine coverage of hepatitis B vaccine be scaled up. In 2017, 48 of the 53 countries in the WHO European Region conducted universal HBV vaccination, but only 26 vaccinated all newborns; the other 22 started vaccination at the age of 2 months or later.

Hepatitis C virus (HCV)

HCV infection can be transmitted in three ways:

- during injecting drug use, through the sharing of injection equipment
- in health care settings as a result of reuse or inadequate sterilization of medical equipment, especially syringes and needles; and
- in some countries, via transfusion of unscreened blood and blood products.

New antiviral medicines can cure more than 95% of people with HCV infection, greatly reducing the risk of complications and death. Without treatment, the risk of developing cirrhosis of the liver among people with chronic HCV infection is 15–30% within 20 years.

At present, no vaccine against HCV is available, and prevention of the infection depends on reducing exposure to the virus in health care settings and in high-risk populations, such as people who inject drugs. Effective preventive measures include screening, testing of blood and organ donors, good infection control and harm reduction – including needle and syringe exchange programmes – and ensuring safe injection practices in health care settings.

National strategy guides elimination efforts: Georgia

For countries to make real and sustainable progress towards eliminating viral hepatitis, they must develop comprehensive national strategies. Georgia, a country with a high number of HCV infections, offers an example of how a strong national plan can guide a country towards elimination.

In April 2015, Georgia became the first country in the WHO European Region to endorse a national HCV programme and approve a long-term elimination strategy. The strategy has helped to drive improvements in monitoring and surveillance, overall infection control and prevention; it has also expanded the delivery of hepatitis C screening, diagnosis and treatment services.

To mark World Hepatitis Day, the WHO Regional Office for Europe, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, is hosting a meeting in Tbilisi to review and share lessons learnt from the Georgian hepatitis C elimination programme.

Prevention as an essential part of elimination: Norway and the United Kingdom

Eliminating the threat of HBV infection requires a comprehensive approach that includes prevention of infections acquired immediately before and after birth and during childhood, as well as during adolescence and adulthood.

Norway and the United Kingdom have recently become the latest countries in the WHO European Region to add hepatitis B vaccination to their routine immunization schedules: Norway has offered the vaccine since February 2017 and the United Kingdom will provide a hexavalent vaccine, including hepatitis B, at age 2 months for children born after 1 August 2017. With these two additional countries offering population-wide protection against the virus, the Region is one step closer to its goal of controlling HBV infection, as established in the European Vaccine Action Plan 2015–2020. Follow the link below to read more about hepatitis B vaccination in the Region.

Expanding access to treatment: Republic of Moldova

While new antiviral medicines can cure most people infected with hepatitis C, they are often prohibitively expensive. The Republic of Moldova is one country that has made great progress in improving access to these medicines. In 2016, WHO updated its hepatitis C treatment and care guidelines, which strongly recommend direct-acting antivirals. Following this update, the Centre for Centralized Procurements in Health in the Republic of Moldova worked with WHO to identify ways to make medicines to treat hepatitis C more affordable, resulting in a procurement procedure for the introduction of generics.

Prior to the introduction of this procedure, around 7000 people were registered and waiting for treatment, and approximately 300–400 people were being treated every year. Since 2016, 3000 people have already been treated with the new direct-acting antivirals and a second wave will soon begin treatment. Learn more about efforts to improve access to hepatitis C treatment in the Republic of Moldova by watching the video to the right.

Countries across the WHO European Region, from Georgia to the United Kingdom, are taking steps to bring closer the reality of achieving the elimination of viral hepatitis.
Albania

The Institute of Public Health organised activities to improve public knowledge about the risk of hepatitis. This included beach campaigns where tables with informative materials and specialists shared key hepatitis prevention messages via megaphones. The Institute encouraged all District Promotion Boards to organise activities in their regions. The Institute also shared new WHO data on the global hepatitis epidemic through their website. They also created their own personalized #ShowYourFace posters to use on the site.

Deputy Minister of Health Goce Çakarovski raised awareness of the hepatitis situation in Albania and highlighted the government’s strategy to eliminate hepatitis C by 2030 at a press conference.

Other participating organisations:
- DSD - Epidemiology Sector
- Public Health Directorate of Vlora
- Public Health Directorate of Saranda
- QKTV

Armenia

The Ministry of Health held a press conference in which they announced that cases of hepatitis B and C have dropped in Armenia and thanked neighboring country Georgia for their donation of hepatitis C drugs to 1,000 patients.

Other participating organisations:
- City Government of Vienna
- Pharmaceutical Industry Association of Austria
- Social Democratic Economic Association of Lower Austria
European region

Azerbaijan

- Awareness
- Education
- Testing
- Media coverage

**WHA member** Azerbeijan Medical Doctors and Students Public Union created an educational video for WHD.

Chairman of the Commission for the Prevention, Diagnostics and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis B and C of the Ministry of Health, Professor Murad Mammadov said at a press conference for journalists at the Clinical Medical Center on World Hepatitis Day.

The **Ministry of Health** held a WHD press conference at the Clinical Medical Centre where they provided an update on the hepatitis situation in Azerbaijan.

The Ministry also organised a WHD event in Sabunchu in partnership with the Sabunchu District Government and the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society which was attended by local government, educational institutions, community representatives and youth. The Republican Diagnostics Centre (RDM) held a meeting with Binagadi District Executive Authority, the Youth Union of the New Azerbaijan Party Binagadi District Organization and the municipality of the village of Rasulzade.

At Baku railway station individuals could receive free hepatitis B and C tests as part of an initiative organised by the Reference Clinical Laboratory Center, LOR Hospital and Azerbaijan Railways.

The Ministry promoted a number of civil society organised WHD events taking place. This included an information seminar and a talk on measures to prevent hepatitis.

**Other participating organisations:**
- Azerbaijan Medical University
- Azerbaijan Railways
- Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society
- Clinical Medical Center
- LOR Hospital
- Reference Clinical Laboratory Center
- Republican Public Health Diagnostic Center (RMDM)
- Sabunchu District
- Stimul Hospital

Belarus

- Awareness
- Media coverage

**WHA member** Together Against Hepatitis, the Ministry of Health and the WHO Country Office in Belarus participated in a WHD press conference that provided information on the global burden, the situation in Belarus and highlighted that the government hopes new DAAs will soon be available at an affordable cost in Belarus. Chairman of Together Against Hepatitis stressed that the government still must adopt a national strategy to tackle viral hepatitis. The **Ministry of Health** also raised awareness of WHD through their Facebook page.

Belgium

- Awareness
- Testing
- Media coverage

**WHA member** Carrefour Hépatitis Aide et Contact (CHAC) organised a press conference to raise awareness on WHD. At the event attendees signed a manifesto to be sent to Belgium’s health ministers calling for action to eliminate hepatitis by 2030. The organisation also actively participated in and promoted the #ShowYourFace campaign and included images of health ministers in their posters. Their activities received widespread media coverage.

**WHA member** Vlaams Hepatitis Contactpunt participated in and promoted the #ShowYourFace campaign as well as sharing the WHD global message from the WHA President on their website.

The **Ministry of Health** organised a screening and awareness campaign that took place in hospitals across Belgium.

**Other participating organisations:**
- AZ Maria Middelares
- AZ NiooKlaas
- CHC Sainte Elisabeth
- CHU de Liège
- Hôpital Marie-Curie
- UZ Antwerpen
- UZ Brussel
- UZ Gent
- UZ Leuven
- UZA
- Young Hepatologist Working Group
European region

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Awareness
- Testing

WHA member The Chronic Viral Hepatitis Patients Association "B18" worked with the University Clinical Center to provide free testing and counselling.

WHO Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported WHD through Facebook and Twitter.

Other participating organisations:
- Specialist Medical Centre

Bulgaria

- Awareness
- Testing
- Media coverage

WHA member HepActive carried out free hepatitis B and C testing where they tested over 200 people. They also ran a two-week social media campaign to promote the #ShowYourFace campaign and their testing activities, which reached 50,000 people on Facebook. HepActive appeared on TV to discuss the hepatitis situation in Bulgaria.

WHA member Hepasist held an event in the Bulgarian Parliament to support the elimination of hepatitis by 2030. During the event MPs and ministers presented their messages in support of the cause. Hepasist created life-size versions of the #ShowYourFace polaroids and encouraged participants to have their photos taken. Minister of Health Nikolai Petrov, fellow politicians and journalists all participated. The photos were also uploaded to Facebook in real time. Hepasist launched also a screening campaign among people over 40 and for their first stop they visited the Hyundai plant where they provided free testing. Hepasist held a press conference ahead of WHA with representatives from the National Health Insurance Fund and the WHO Country Office in Bulgaria, notable academics and doctors and patients.

WHA members HepActive and Hepasist worked together to launch a journalistic contest on "Screening for a World Without Hepatitis C". From 13 July to 20 November 2017, journalists are encouraged to submit all forms of media including press and online media, radio and television coverage, photos and films dedicated to the subject of hepatitis C.

Other participating organisations:
- Health Without Borders Association
- St. Ivan Rilski Hospital
- St. Marina’s Hospital

Croatia

- Awareness
- Testing
- Education
- Media coverage

Throughout July WHA members Croatian Association of Treated and Ill with Hepatitis "Hepatos", took their mobile testing van to prominent locations and squares in Croatia such as Gaje Bulata Square in Split during ULTRA Europe Festival. The organisation also ran an advertising campaign with posters appearing in cities and on buses, highlighting that elimination is possible. On WHD they held a WHD symposium. WHA members Association of treated and ill with hepatitis HEPATOS RIJEKA and Hepatos Zagreb joined them for these initiatives.

The Croatian Public Health Institute launched an educational internet platform and a mobile app “All About Hepatitis”.

Other participating organisations:
- Croatian Association for the Fight against HIV and Viral Hepatitis (HUHIV)
Civil society organisation Prometheus Cyprus Liver Patient & Friends Association held an event in Nicosia to mark WHD. Speakers at the event included Director General of the Ministry of Health Dr Christina Giannaki and reputed Greek professor Dr. Angelos Hatzakis. The need for an epidemiological survey to map the hepatitis problem in Cyprus was stressed. The organisation also held a media briefing for journalists to learn more about hepatitis B and C.

The Ministry of Health also raised awareness by tweeting on WHD.

Other participating organisations:
- Cyprus Science University
- Prometheus Cyprus Liver Patient & Friends Association
- Government Office of the Czech Republic
- Hygienic Station of the Capital City of Prague
- Institute for Clinical and Experimental Medicine (IKEM)
- Prostějov Hospital
- Regional Hygiene Station of the Central Bohemia Region
- Regional Hygiene Station of the Liberec Region
- REGIONAL HYGIENIC STATION OF MORAVSKOSLEZ REGION WITH OSTRAVA
- Rudolf and Stefanie Benešov hospital
- National Institute for Health Development
- Seksuaaltervise Nõuandla
- Dansk Hepatitis Forening
European region

Finland

The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health spoke to the media to raise awareness of viral hepatitis transmission routes and highlight their strategy to provide hepatitis C treatment for more patients.

Other participating organisations:
- Kidney and Liver Association

France

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in Geneva published information on WHD and progress towards the 2030 elimination goal on its website.

WHA member SOS Hépatites issued a press release on hepatitis B and published an editorial calling for greater access to hepatitis C treatment and the hepatitis B vaccine. As part of the organisation’s screening campaign “Savoir c’est Guérir”, musician Louis Bertignac created a special video message.

Coalition PLUS highlighted the numerous initiatives patients are coordinating themselves to access treatment, such as buyers clubs and licensing.

Other participating organisations:
- SOS Hépatites Alsace-Lorraine
- Sainte-Elisabeth (Heusy) clinic
- Syndicat des travailleuses-eurs des milieux associatifs en éducation
- Centre hospitalier Gabriel Martin
- Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU)
- Groupe Hospitalier Est Réunion (GHER)
- AIDES Toulon

Georgia

The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs held a meeting in Tbilisi to review and share lessons learnt from the Georgian hepatitis C elimination programme. This was co-hosted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and attended by the Minister of Health David Sergeenko, the World Hepatitis Alliance, the US Ambassador to Georgia, US Centers for Disease Control Head to Georgia and many other experts.

Other participating organisations:
- Hospital Medical City
- National Center for Disease Control and Public Health

Germany

WHA member Deutsche Leberhilfe co-ordinated the German WHD site www.welthepatitistag.info. The organisation issued a number of press releases and raised awareness through social media and radio and TV appearances.

On WHD Minister of Health Manne Lucha called for universal hepatitis B vaccination. The Ministry also raised awareness through social media.

Other participating organisations:
- Ärzte der Welt e.V.
- Brandenburg Ministry of Health
- Community Centre Middle Rhine e.V.
- DONAUSAR Klinikum Deggendorf
- Rhein-Sieg-Kreis health department
- University of Hamburg
WHA member Hellenic Liver Patient Association (HELPA) "Prometheus" organised and participated in a number of activities for WHD. The Scientific Advisory Committee for the National Action Plan on Viral Hepatitis held a one day meeting to discuss the plan. HELPAPrometheus participated in this meeting alongside government officials. The Ministry of Health published information and the National Hepatitis C Action Plan through its website and social media channels on WHD.

HELPA "Prometheus" in collaboration with the Dept. of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, School of Medicine, University of Athens and with the support of Hepatitis B and C Public Policy Association (HIBPPA), organised a one day meeting entitled “Elimination of Hepatitis C in Specific Populations in the light of new developments”.

HELPA "Prometheus" used the #ShowYourFace campaign to highlight the importance of eliminating hepatitis among journalists, doctors, politicians and individuals. A photo collage of 48 stakeholders was created to encourage the general population to get involved.

The organisation also implemented a “Screening = Prevention” awareness campaign that encouraged the public to get tested by highlighting the huge numbers of people living with hepatitis B and C that are unaware in Greece. The campaign was run in Athens and Thessaloniki. They placed awareness raising stickers on take-away coffees cups and reached over 1,500 people. They also placed posters in popular locations in central Athens and Thessaloniki.

Two days of free liver elastography screening was available to individuals in Thessaloniki.

Other participating organisations:

Dublin Simon Community
GOSHH
SAOL Project
WHA member Hetz - Israel Association for the Health of the Liver published new data showing that only 10% of hepatitis C patients diagnosed in Israel have been treated. At a WHD event in the Knesset, Israel’s Parliament, Hetz called for better implementation of the national hepatitis policy to ensure more people are treated. The event was attended by politicians, medical professionals and academics. Hetz also marked the day with media outreach, appearing on local TV and radio.

Other participating organisations:
- Israel Liver Research Society
- Sheba Medical Centre

Government body the Higher Institute of Health published a study in which it evaluated the benefits and costs of universal hepatitis C treatment. The study found that it would be cost-saving to treat all patients. The Ministry of Health also raised awareness by tweeting on WHD.

Other participating organisations:
- Drop-in and Indifference Busters
- Gragnano Hospital
- Italian Diagnostic Centre
- Microbiology Unit of Ass Milano

WHA member AGEPC organised a number of WHD activities. A hepatology school event was held on the topic of liver transplantation. The organisation held free hepatitis B and C screening and ultrasound examination, testing a total of 124 people. On WHD the Ministry of Information and Communications held a press conference on "Serious Problems of Viral Hepatitis in the World and Kazakhstan. Representatives from the Ministry of Healthcare, the National Centre for Diseases, International Hepato Transplant Group Association and AGEPC spoke at the conference. AGEPC also held a training session for patients and healthcare workers on hepatitis B and C and liver transplantation.

In a statement to the press, the WHO Country Office in Kosovo highlighted the burden of hepatitis both globally and in Kosovo and referred WHO guidelines for the prevention and treatment of hepatitis B and C. The Ministry of Health said that testing and treatment are available free of charge in Kosovo and the government has a national plan in line with the global elimination strategy in place.
Kyrgyzstan

The Ministry of Health shared information about hepatitis and its transmission routes through news outlet Sputnik.

Latvia

A roundtable discussion entitled “Life without hepatitis C” discussed the country’s progress towards elimination and attendees agreed on the next steps to implement the national action plan. The event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Health, the National Health Service, the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and leading medical doctors.

Other participating organisations:
- Association of HIV and AIDS Specialists
- Association of Latvian Infectologists and Hepatologists
- Hepatitis C Patient Association
- Liepāja City Council Social Service Addiciton Prevention Center
- MFD Health Group

Lithuania

A press conference entitled the "National Strategy for the Control of Viral Hepatitis C: Opportunities, Challenges, Aspirations" was organised by the Ministry of Health together with the initiators of the project "Defeat hepatitis C" Lithuanian Society of Gastroenterologists and Lithuanian Infectologists Society. Patient stories were also shared at the event.

Other participating organisations:
- Alytus City Municipal Public Health Bureau
- Comprehensive Diseases and AIDS Center (ULAC)
- Department of Hepatology, Gastroenterology and Dietetics, Santaros Clinic of VUL

Luxembourg

The Ministry of Health worked with a number of partner organisations to host an information booth where flyers and condom were distributed and the Mobile Intervention Device for the Promotion of Sexual Health provided free testing. The Ministry of Health also published a comprehensive press kit with information on hepatitis and the government’s response.

Other participating organisations:
- CHL
- Luxembourg Institute of Health
- Luxembourg Red Cross
Macedonia

WHA member Hepar Center Bitola organised a number of activities for WHD. They conducted free testing in Skopje, Veles, Stip, Strumica, Bitola, Ohrid, Kumanovo and Tetovo. Two concerts with famous bands, Latino performances and fire dancers were organised to fight stigma and discrimination. They also held a number of informational stands with brochures, condoms, balloons and t-shirts. The organisation participated in a regional meeting in Zagreb which the Minister of Health attended for the first time. At the event the Minister announced that Macedonia has started to develop its national hepatitis elimination strategy. Hepar Center Bitola participated in a press conference following this meeting along with the Ministry of Health of Croatia, the European Liver Patients Association and WHA member in Croatia Hepatos. A number of notable organisations and individuals participated in their activities including the Minister of Health, the Deputy Minister of Health, the Director of Oncology, the Red Cross, the National Transfusion Center and sports star Kiril Lazarov.

Other participating organisations:
- Centre for Public Health - Skopje
- NGO SLAP

Monaco

No participation reported

Montenegro

No participation reported

Netherlands

WHA member Dutch Liver Patients Association launched a new patient care path on WHD. This provides patients and caregivers with information on managing and treating hepatitis B and C and has been developed entirely from the patient perspective.

Other participating organisations:
- GGD Rotterdam-Rijnmond
- Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labour of Sint Maarten
- Mobile Doctors
- XRenier de Graaf
- St. Antonius Hospital
The National Institute of Public Health published information about the hepatitis situation in Norway and the global response to tackle hepatitis B and C on its website to mark WHD.

WHA member Fundacja Gwiazda Nadziei Star of Hope Foundation organised free hepatitis C screening in nine cities, testing over 5000 people. This was part of their wider campaign “Do not be surprised”, which is spearheaded by ambassadors including well-known Polish actors Piotr Fronczewski and Artur Baciś. The online “Do not be surprised” advert reached over 450,000 people online. The foundation conducted a survey to discover how people living with hepatitis C are perceived when using services such as dentists, hairdressers or tattoo artists. The foundation also worked with the Polish Society of Hepatology and the Hepatological Coalition to produce educational films that appeared on some of the largest Polish news portals.

The Ministry of Health raised awareness of the hepatitis situation in Portugal with information on its website and their social media channels. MP Ricardo Baptista Leite appeared on national TV to discuss the national strategy.

WHA member SOS Hepatites participated in an event on hepatitis C that featured a screening of the film “Hep C Free” and a debate among experts in the field including Emília Rodrigues, President of SOS Hepatites, Ricardo Fernandes, Executive Director of the Group of Activists in Treatment (GAT), Prof. Dr. Rui Tato Marinho, Hepatologist of the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Service of Santa Maria Hospital and Guilherme Macedo, Director of the Gastroenterology Service of the São João Hospital Center. The organisation also held an awareness event at Tamariz Beach in Cascais that included a fitness class and advice from healthcare professionals.

WHA member Crescer na Maior conducted community outreach with infectious diseases specialists. They raised awareness among target populations on the streets and handed out flyers with key facts about hepatitis.

The Ministry of Health held an event to report on the progress of the National Programme for Viral Hepatitis. At the event Portuguese singer and hepatitis C survivor Rui Reininho shared his story. The event also included speeches from the Minister of Health, Adalberto Campos Fernandes, Dr. Ricardo Baptista Leite, deputy of the Assembly of the Republic, and Luís Mendão, of the National Forum of Civil Society for HIV, AIDS, Tuberculosis and Viral Hepatitis.

Other participating organisations:
- APDES
- Ares do Pinhal
- CASO Portugal
- CHMA Medicine Service
- Community Against AIDS (FPCCSIDA)
- GIRuBarcelos
- GIRuGaia
- GIRuSetúbal
- Hospital Center of São João
- MAPS Movimento de Apoio à Problemática da Sida (The AIDS Relief Movement)
- Médicos do Mundo
- Portuguese Association for the Study of the Liver
- Portuguese Society of Gastroenterology
- Portuguese Society of Internal Medicine
- Warsaw Children’s Hospital
- Polish Society of Hepatology
- Hepatological Coalition
WHA member SANOHEP from Romania attended a roundtable discussion hosted by LACTEIA Medical Centre, USMIF Gastroenterology Laboratory " Nicolae Testemitanu", association "HEPATEG" and Hepavit Patient Association.

WHO Country Office in Moldova published information on its website about the progress the country is making to improve access to hepatitis C medicines.

Other participating organisations:
- Centrul Sănătate Publică Raional Ungheni
- League of People living with HIV from Moldova
- State University of Medicine

WHA member Asociatia Pacientilor cu Afectiuni Hepatice Romania (APAH-RO) organised a number of awareness raising activities including a press conference, a public information event called "Living Library", three sports events, in Bucharest, Brașov and Ploiești, under the title "Together for 2030" and information actions where volunteers handed out leaflets and answered questions.

WHA member Fundatia Baylor Marea Neagra (Baylor Black Sea Foundation) created a series of short films about hepatitis that are shown in their waiting rooms and were promoted across social media. They also issued a press release highlighting their testing programme.

The Ministry of Health posted information on their website about the hepatitis situation both globally and in Romania.

Other participating organisations:
- Public Health Directorate (DSP) of Alba County
- Regina Maria Health Network
- Suceava Public Health Department
- SANAVITA Medical Centre
- Teleorman County Public Health Department
- Hunedoara Public Health Department
- Arad County Public Health Department
- Transylvania Sports Club
- Brașov County Athletics Association
WHAs public organisation for treatment and prevention of hepatitis held a roundtable on 22 June to coincide with WHD and International Day Against Drug Abuse. On 26 July the organisation held an event in Saratov City Park to raise awareness, which was attended by approximately 400 people. On WHD they organised a “Get tested for hepatitis” campaign with free hepatitis B and C testing and information on hepatitis preventative measures and NOhep.

WHO Country Office in Russia promoted the Ministry roundtable on their website.

Other participating organisations:

- FFBUZ “Center for Hygiene and Epidemiology in the NSO”

San Marino

No participation reported
**Slovakia**

- **Awareness**
- **Media coverage**

Other participating organisations:
- Regional Public Health Office in Banská Bystrica

**Slovenia**

- **Awareness**
- **Testing**
- **Media coverage**

WHA member **Association Slovenia Hep** organised a WHD campaign with the University of Ljubljana

The **National Institute of Public Health** published information about hepatitis through their website and through the press.

Other participating organisations:
- Ljubljana Clinic for Infectious Diseases

**Spain**

- **Awareness**
- **Advocacy**
- **Education**
- **Media coverage**

WHA member **Associació Catalana de Malalts D’hepatitis (ASSCAT)** organised an event to discuss progress towards elimination in Catalonia. The event was made up of two roundtable discussions, the first covering scientific presentations and the second focusing on patient stories and community work. Speakers included the Ministry of Health of Catalonia, renowned healthcare professionals, academics and patient representatives. At the end of the event, the Public Health Agency of Catalonia announced new data and the results of treatment in Catalonia. ASSCAT also organised a guided visit to the Jardínes de Laribal to mark WHD as well as publishing a special WHD edition of their magazine.

WHA member **Organizacion Nacional de Afectados por hepatitis virales (ONAH)** actively participated in and promoted the #ShowYourFace campaign.

The **Ministry of Health** promoted WHD and the global elimination strategy through social media.

More than one hundred town halls across Spain illuminated their buildings red to mark WHD. This was at the request of Plataforma de Afectados por la Hepatitis C and saw visual support across Andalusia, Aragon, Cantabria, Castilla La Mancha, Castile Leon, Catalonia, Valencia, Madrid and Murcia.

Other participating organisations:
- Alianza para la Eliminación de las Hepatitis Víricas de España (AEHVE)
- Associació Mallorquina d’Afectats per Hepatitz10s C (AMAHC)
- Cruz Roja Bizkaia
- Federación Nacional de Enfermos Trasplantados y Hepáticos (FNETH)
- Madrid Salud X
- Plataforma de Afectados por la Hepatitis C
- Plataforma Galega de Afectados pola Hepatitis C
**European region**

**Sweden**

- **Awareness**
- **Media coverage**

WHA member Riksföreningen Hepatit C raised awareness through their Facebook page.

The Public Health Authority published new information on its website about the hepatitis situation in Sweden, in particular noting the increase of hepatitis C infections among people who inject drugs.

**Switzerland**

- **Awareness**
- **Testing**
- **Policy**
- **Media coverage**

WHA member Swiss Experts in Viral Hepatitis offered free hepatitis B and C testing across Switzerland. In Zurich the Swiss Experts in Viral Hepatitis and WHA member Swiss Hepatitis C Association together held a street activity where they ran risk assessment tool among the population. The organisation were also interviewed on national radio, reaching almost 80,000 listeners as well as launching a new information campaign on the risks associated with hepatitis.

WHA member Arud Zentren für Suchtmedizin promoted the online risk assessment created by partner organisation Swiss Experts in Viral Hepatitis through their Facebook page.

The Federal Office of Public Health commissioned a study as part of the testing conducted by Swiss Hepatitis Strategy Association.

Other participating organisations:
- Stop Hepatitis C

**Turkey**

- **Awareness**
- **Media coverage**

WHA members Hep Yasam and Turk Karaciger Vakfi organised a street event in Sisti square in the centre of Istanbul. Volunteers engaged the local population, giving out balloons and rosettes while a band played local and international songs. They raised awareness by answering the public’s questions on viral hepatitis and handing out information brochures on prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The organisations spelt out HEPATIT (hepatitis) with giant-yellow letters in the square and took part in the #ShowYourFace campaign by taking photos with a giant frame.

The Ministry of Health made a WHD statement to raise awareness of the hepatitis situation in Turkey and provide information on how to prevent infection.

Other participating organisations:
- Akdeniz University Hospital
- Bilent Ecevit University
- İzmir Bozyaka Education and Research Hospital
- İzmir Seka State Hospital
- Karadeniz Technical University
- Osmangazi University
- Sevgi Hospital
- The Assistance Coordination Unit / EWARNX
- Turkish Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Association (KLIMIK) Viral Hepatitis Working GroupX
- Turkish Gastroenterology Association

**Tajikstan**

No participation reported
no participation reported

WHA member Public Organisation 'ALLIANCE GLOBAL' organised an educational event in Kyiv where people were able to receive free hepatitis C tests, information material and consultation from a doctor. The organisation held a press briefing during the event, highlighting the number of people living with hepatitis C in Ukraine. They also conducted an online campaign among the LGBT community on social media.

WHA member Spark of Hope (Ternopil regional NGO patients with hepatitis C) organised an awareness event in Ternopil. They displayed a giant #ShowYourFace poster, using a photo of the director of the organisation, Oleg Martynyuk’s grandchildren to show that children and grandchildren must be protected from viral hepatitis. Shouting into a megaphone, Oleg encouraged members of the public to sign the poster to show their commitment. The organisation plan to bring the signed poster to the World Hepatitis Summit 2017.

The Ministry of Health, USAID, the Ukrainian Centre for Public Health and the EQUIP consortium launched their first hepatitis C testing and treatment programme that aims to test more than 8,000 people over the next three years. Around 4,000 people will be treated in that time.

Other participating organisations:
- ICF 'Alliance for Public Health'
- ACO 'Convictus Ukraine'
- CD 'All-Ukrainian League "LEGALIFE"'
- Health Right International
- ICF 'Alliance for Public Health'
- ICF 'Vertikal'
- Kyiv City Clinical Hospital
- National Helpline on viral hepatitisX
- NGO "Drop-in Center" CF "Hope and Trust"
- PO "Club Eney"
- Student Social Service of Kyiv Polytechnic Institute X

WHA member The Hepatitis C Trust held a patient conference in London to mark WHD. The main focus of the event, titled 'Speak Up', was patients sharing their individual experiences of hepatitis C. There were also be short films shown about people who are affected by hepatitis C from across the world. As part of the HepCScot partnership initiative, The Hepatitis C Trust Scotland and WHA member Waverley Care organised an art exhibition called Hepatitis See. The exhibition was made up for a series of artwork and photos created by people living with hepatitis C.

WHA member Children’s Liver Disease Foundation promoted WHD through their Facebook page.

WHA member Addaction held a hepatitis C awareness afternoon.

Public Health England adapted the #ShowYourFace materials to run a poster campaign with the support of TV doctor Dr Christian Jessen. Posters were sent to all GP practices in England to help find undiagnosed cases of hepatitis C. They launched an awareness video and hosted a hepatitis C quiz that was taken over 2,400 times. They also brought an immunisation roadshow to PHE Colindale to raise awareness of hepatitis.

First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon and the leaders of the two main opposition parties in Scotland issued statements to mark WHD, reiterating the cross-party support for eliminating hepatitis C.

Other participating organisations:
- Alcohol and Drugs Action
- Cardiff & Vale UHB
- Cardiff and Vale UHB
- Cumberland Infirmary
- Dyfed Drug and Alcohol Service
- Hep C Hants P2P
- Hepatitis Scotland
- Hillingdon Hospital
- HMP Barlinnie
- HMP Belmarsh
- HMP Forest Bank
- HMP Pentonville
- HMP Wandsworth
- John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford
- NHS Dorset Team
- Pavilions Drug and Alcohol Service
- Public Health England
- Queen Alexandra Hospital , Portsmouth
- Scottish Health Protection Network
- Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland
- Thrift House Substance Misuse Service
- Turning Point
- Unity, Drug and Alcohol Service , Carlisle
- Waltham Forest Council
- West Wales BBV Service
- York Teaching Hospital
Uzbekistan
South-East Asia region

PARTICIPATION STATISTICS
10 countries participating
91% of region participating
9 governments participating
6 WHO Country Offices participating
14,700 people attended events*
14,927 people tested*
11,052 people vaccinated*
*where reported, numbers likely to be higher

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN 2017
Bangladesh
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
India
Indonesia
Maldives
Myanmar
Nepal
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Message from WHO Regional Director for the South-East Asia region, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh

The WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia is observing the 7th World Hepatitis Day on 28th July 2017 to highlight the collective efforts being made by WHO and the World Hepatitis Alliance towards the elimination of hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. This is the vision and goal envisaged in the WHO “Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis 2016–2021” and has also been included as a target in Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. The theme for this year’s World Hepatitis Day is “Eliminate hepatitis”.

Scientific advances and breakthroughs, coupled with global solidarity and commitment, have reversed the trend for most communicable diseases but not viral hepatitis, an infection that is preventable and yet continues to exact a large toll on human lives. The WHO South-East Asia Region has nearly 49 million people living with chronic hepatitis B and C and an estimated 408 000 succumb to the infection and its complications each year.

Hepatitis A and E – that are water- and foodborne infections – have largely been controlled due to improved water, sanitation and hygiene; however, in many countries of the Region, multiple outbreaks of these totally preventable diseases continue to be reported.

Universal vaccination of all newborns and infants has the highest impact on preventing new hepatitis B infections. Point-of-care and rapid diagnostic tests are now available for hepatitis B and C infections. There is effective treatment for hepatitis B and newer drugs for hepatitis C can cure the disease in 95% of cases that get access to treatment. There has been unprecedented progress in cost reduction and access to the newer, directly-acting antiviral drugs. Once unaffordable, these medicines are now available at much lower prices in most low- and middle-income countries.

With these available tools at hand, efforts towards addressing viral hepatitis in a holistic manner and with a public health approach need to be enhanced. The WHO SEA Region has developed, with the goal of ending viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030, a Regional Action Plan for Hepatitis that will provide an actionable framework for implementing evidence-based interventions at scale.

Five key messages that I want to give out on this important day are:

1. All infants and newborns must be immunized at birth for hepatitis B, and followed up with the regular 2–3 doses of the same vaccine as per national guidelines.
2. All injections need to be safe – countries should aim to adopt safety engineered syringes such as re-use prevention (RUP) and sharp injury prevention (SIP) syringes in therapeutic care, both in the public and private sector.
3. Every unit of blood and related products should be screened for hepatitis B & C.
4. Safe drinking water and effective sanitation needs to be made a reality in every community.
5. Every person should be offered the opportunity to know his/her hepatitis status, and appropriate treatment be provided to those infected.

Hepatitis is a preventable and treatable disease. We need strong political commitment and speedy and innovative implementation of the Regional Action Plan in an integrated manner. We are also committed to support Member States in developing their national action plans for prevention and control of hepatitis.
WHA member, The National Liver Foundation, appeared on national television program ATN Bangala to raise awareness of viral hepatitis. Prof. Mohammad Ali appeared on BBC World Service Radio to discuss issues associated with the disease. Alongside these media related activities, the National Liver Foundation also held a roller skate rally to raises awareness and held a screening for orphaned children. At the Krishshibid Institute, the foundation held a WHD seminar to educate civil society on viral hepatitis.

The President, Prime Minister and Health Minister made a series of statements urging the world to make steps toward the elimination of viral hepatitis by raising awareness of the disease.

WHO Country Office provided a write up on their website and hosted an op-ed by Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region.

Other participating organisations:
- Amenity
- Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society
- Communicable Disease Control
- Forum for the Study of the Liver

The Ministry of Health, supported by WHO Country Office, made a statement on viral hepatitis and held an event in which speakers discussed the issue and pictures were displayed.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare held a technical consultation to inform policy making.

On the eve of World Hepatitis Day, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, Poonam Khetrapal Singh, said that viral hepatitis is a major public health problem in the region and every person has a stake in controlling and eliminating it. "WHO South-East Asia is committed to doing this, and to supporting all countries in the region implement comprehensive strategic action plans to tackle hepatitis. Through our collective resolve, we can enhance hepatitis-related awareness and action and eliminate the disease as a public health threat by 2030," she said.

WHA member, Chennai Liver Foundation, hosted a hepatitis awareness campaign with Anna Adarsh College featuring the hepatitis Pledge and a walkathon.

WHA member, Liver Foundation of West Bengal, held a public rally, seminar and exhibition. The seminar focused on the theme of 'Let's Work Together' to raise awareness of viral hepatitis.

WHA member Asian Liver Foundation, hosted a talk given by Dr Manoj Kumar on "How to
prevent and treat Hepatitis to eliminate by 2030.”

WHA member, **Rann Bhoomi Foundation**, held a vaccination drive at the Hepatitis B Vaccination Camp in the New Delhi Slums, where they immunised 60 children against hepatitis B alongside an awareness session.

At the Taj Banjara Hills in Hyderabad WHA member, **Save the Liver Foundation**, held an awareness raising conference featuring prominent actor Manali Rathod Vasudev.

WHA member, **HepFree**, held a free medical camp and awareness raising day that tested over 3,000 people for viral hepatitis. They also hosted a stand at the train station to raise awareness amongst public transport users.

WHA member and **Chief Minister** Manik Sarkarhosted held a press conference, the Minister called for more work to be done by the Hepatitis Foundation of Tripura to create more awareness of hepatitis disease among the wider population.

WHA member, **Cone Manipur**, held a public seminar, state consultation and prisoner testing drive to raise awareness of viral hepatitis and help improve screening in prisons.

WHA member, **The Tibetan Voluntary Health Association**, held an awareness raising day at a local TCV day school.

Other participating organisations:

- **92.7 BIG FM**
- **Americares India**
- **Aster CMI Hospital**
- **Dehli Gov School for Girls**
- **GVK MIAL (administration of Mumbai’s Airport)**
- **Indian Drug Users’ Forum**
- **LiverCare**
- **Mahavir Institute of Medical Sciences**
- **Medlife Group**
- **Nirmal Pran Kendra**
- **North East Digestive and Liver Foundation**
- **Pharmacy Infoline**
- **Rural Health Training Centre**
- **SOA University**
- **United Way Mumbai**

The **Ministry of Health**, created a Facebook flyer and hosted a press conference with the theme ‘Elements of Hepatitis to healthy families’. In attendance was Secretary of the Directorate General of Prevention and Control of Disease of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Asjikin Iman Hidayat Dachlan.

**WHO Country Office** tweeted an infographic and supported the elimination targets.

WHA member, **Persaudaraan Korban Napza Indonesia (PKNI)**, held a street rally and interviews were conducted by CNN.

Other participating organisations:

- **BIMC Hospital Nusa Dua**
- **Cita Sehat**
- **Government of Lampung Province**
- **Government of Parepare City**
- **In Harmony Vaccination Clinic**
- **KALBE**
- **Kimia Farma**
- **Universitas Hasanuddin**

WHO **Country Office** supported activity through multiple retweets on Twitter throughout WHD.

The **Ministry of Health** held a meeting on policy initiatives to address viral hepatitis. Furthermore, **The Health Protection Agency** promoted WHD on Facebook.
South-East Asia region

Myanmar

- Awareness
- Education
- Testing

WHA member Myanmar Liver Foundation held a hepatitis B and hepatitis C free open testing day spearheaded by celebrities Kyaw Kyaw, Eisikway, Nyi Htut Khaung, Maung, Nan Su Do, Yoon Shwe Ye and Soe Nandar Kyaw. In addition, the Foundation featured in a live talk show for World Hepatitis Day with President of Liver Foundation, Dr Khin Pyone Kyi, and Chief Advisor of Liver Foundation Prof Win Naing and Vice President of Liver Foundation Prof Win Win Swe.

Other participating organisations:
- Mandalay General Hospital
- Mandalay Region Government

Sri Lanka

- Media coverage
- Awareness

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health posted articles, information and infographics on their websites.

Nepal

- Education

Other participating organisations:
- B.P Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKIHS)

Thailand

- Awareness
- Testing
- Education

The Ministry of Public Health held a press conference at the Bamrasnaradura Institute, alongside WHO Thailand, to discuss infection rates, awareness and control of the disease in Thailand.

WHA member, the Thailand Hepatitis Alliance, hosted a screening and education event at Surin Hospital, which provided visitors with information about hepatitis, how to manage hepatitis and how it can be contracted.

Other participating organisations:
- Rheumatism Foundation

Other participating organisations:
- National Liver Foundation, Bangladesh
- GVK MIAL, India
- Thailand Hepatitis Alliance, Thailand
- Thailand Hepatitis Alliance, Thailand
- Rheumatism Foundation

South-East Asia region
The Government of Timor-Leste posted articles on its website about WHD. The UN in Timor-Leste supported this through activity on Facebook.
Western Pac region

PARTICIPATION STATISTICS
16 countries participating
57% of region participating
9 governments participating
5 WHO Country Offices participating
1082 people attended events*
1500 people tested*
*where reported, numbers likely to be higher

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN 2017
Australia
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Chinese Taipei
Cook Islands
Japan
Kiribati
Malaysia
Mongolia
Nauru
New Zealand
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Tonga
Viet Nam
Western Pacific region

Health Minister, Greg Hunt, announced that the Turnbull government will subsidise hepatitis C treatment in Australia. Additionally, the Australian Government listed another hepatitis C drug to be made available on the nation’s Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

WHO Country Office released a comprehensive report outlining policy changes and findings of research into Indigenous People’s living with viral hepatitis in Australia.

WHA member, Hepatitis Victoria, held a series of events and awareness raising activities in Melbourne. On WHD they hosted community engagement activities featuring gift-pack giveaways, a hepatitis elimination display, and a Street Shot Exhibition that engaged young people on risks of viral hepatitis through creative photography.

WHA member, Hepatitis SA, announced the launch of South Australia’s first prisoner BBV prevention plan by the Correction Minister. Furthermore, Hepatitis SA initiated community awareness raising activities through the Big Issue Street Soccer team and community-based volleyball team; holding talks, quizzes, and Q&As. Local Chinese media were also engaged on the day, and local radio interview were conducted to help raise awareness of WHD.

WHA member, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, held a conference for primary care providers - the Australasian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Conference was attended by over 300 delegates.

WHA member, Hepatitis Australia, held a free testing day for both viral hepatitis and HIV, along with a longer life awareness event, and ‘Side Step Hep C’ – both of which aimed to raise awareness. Furthermore, they hosted a World Hepatitis Day lecture in Cairns lead by Professor Alex Thompson, MBBS (hon).

WHA member, Hepatitis NSW, hosted an event at Oatley High School with peer-to-peer education on viral hepatitis. They also worked with the Australian Arts Assembly to produce Australia’s first Chinese music-comedy ‘Love Liver Love Life’ – a play that has a strong focus on hepatitis B health promotion. Furthermore, Hepatitis NSW helped organise and run an awareness raising event ‘Think Before You Ink’ to caution young people against unsafe tattoo practices.

WHA member, Hepatitis WA, had a stall at the Kalamunda Senior High School Health and Wellbeing Expo, which received local media coverage. They also launched an online testing awareness video and held a community breakfast.

The Minister of Health made a statement informing citizens on how viral hepatitis can be contracted.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam outlined how citizens can get treatment for viral hepatitis.

Other participating organisations:

- ACON
- Fix HepC
- The Medical Journal of Australia
- Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health
Western Pacific region

Cambodia

- Awareness

Other participating organisations:
- MEGA We Care

China

- Awareness
- Media coverage
- Education

The State Health Planning Commission launched a strategy to standardise the treatment and to curb the harm of hepatitis, and the Minister of Health conducted a community seminar to increase awareness of viral hepatitis.

WHA member, the Chinese Foundation for Hepatitis Prevention and Control, held a Chinese Hepatitis Forum and World Liver Publicity Day.

WHA member, Inno Community Development Organisation, launched a social media emoji app to raise awareness of viral hepatitis.

WHA member, Asian Liver Center, launched an online awareness campaign including a digital poster and video.

MEGA We Care, Cambodia

Fengcheung CDC, China

State Health Planning Commission, China

Inno Community Development Organisation, China

Chinese Taipei

- Awareness
- Testing

WHA member, Advancing Clinical Treatment of Liver Disease Taiwan, issued a healthcare reminder for hepatitis C treatment.

WHA member, Taiwan Liver Research Foundation, offered a screening day.

WHA member, Kaohsiung Research Association for the Control of Liver Disease, hosted public health education seminars to raise awareness and educate the public.

Mega We Care, Cambodia

Fengcheung CDC, China

State Health Planning Commission, China

Inno Community Development Organisation, China

Hepatitis Queensland, Australia

WHA member, Advancing Clinical Treatment of Liver Disease Taiwan, issued a healthcare reminder for hepatitis C treatment.

WHA member, Taiwan Liver Research Foundation, offered a screening day.

WHA member, Kaohsiung Research Association for the Control of Liver Disease, hosted public health education seminars to raise awareness and educate the public.

WHA member, Kaohsiung Research Association for the Control of Liver Disease, Chinese Taipei

Health ministers from 20 Pacific island countries and areas convened in the Cook Islands for the 12th Pacific Health Ministers Meeting.

Cook Islands

- Policy

World Hepatitis Day 2017 Global Summary Report
Japan

WHA member, Japan Hepatitis Council held a forum on viral hepatitis to discuss prevention, discrimination, elimination and stigma.

Other participating organisations:
✓ Shizuoka Prefecture Liver Disease Collaboration Center Hospital

Kiribati

Policy

Other participating organisations:
✓ Science Direct

Malaysia

Awareness
✓ Testing
Policy
✓ Media coverage

The WHO Country Office issued an online press release featuring stories from people living with viral hepatitis.

The Minister of Health made a statement stressing the need for more screening due to an increase of cases in Malaysia. Alongside this, the Malaysia Aids Council

Mongolia

Awareness
✓ Policy

The Ministry of Health announced that the Mongolian Government will cooperate with the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver, and held an event in commemoration of WHD.

WHA member, Flagstaff International Relief Efforts, published a post on social media outlining the severity of viral hepatitis.

WHA member, Onom Foundation, held a national conference on viral hepatitis – the Mongolia Hepatology Conference, which brought together clinicians, scientists, and specialists. The Foundation also supported the Show Your Face campaign online.

Other participating organisations:
✓ Happy Veritas Diagnostic Center
The Ministry of Health’s, Professor Ed Gane, Chair of the Ministry’s Hepatitis C Implementation Advisory Group made a statement in the media on the need to increase viral hepatitis testing and treatment.

WHA member, The Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand, hosted an information stand at the National Rural Health Conference and published an article featuring a patient story.

WHO Country Office held a Summit to increase the coverage of the hepatitis B vaccine in the Philippines and promoted stories on the official Facebook page.

WHA members, the Yellow Warriors Society, held a HBV Screening day, hosted counselling sessions, opened a public forum to debate hepatitis and launched a national survey to push for policy changes.

Other participating organisations:
- Korean Association for the Study of the Liver (KASL)
- Gilead Science Korea
- AbbVie Korea

Other participating organisations:
- Life Wise – Magazine
- National University Hospital
- Singapore Hepatitis B Consortium
- University of Singapore
- YogaOhm
Western Pacific region

Tonga

- Awareness

The Minister of Health made a statement urging the nation to get tested.

Viet Nam

- Education
- Media coverage

WHA member Viet Nam Viral Hepatitis Alliance hosted its annual hepatitis conference. The event was attended by the WHO Country Office and Ministry of Health, was featured in local media and helped to raise awareness of viral hepatitis.