

World Hepatitis Day 2019 - Africa

Regional Overview

Snapshot

38 countries participating
36 members celebrating
29 members using the Find the Missing Millions theme

Country commitments and announcements

The Ministry of Health in **Rwanda** proposed an ambitious plan to eliminate hepatitis C in the country within five years. The First Lady of Rwanda Mrs. Jeanette Kagame called for concerted efforts by all Rwandans to help achieve this goal.

The government of **Tanzania** announced that it stands firm on curbing viral hepatitis in the country. As part of a nationwide screening drive, many major hospitals offered free screening across the country, with thousands of people taking up the offer.

The **Seychelles** Health Minister Jean-Paul Adam stated that the country's government remains committed to hepatitis elimination and said that the Ministry of Health would redouble its efforts to invest in prevention and treatment.

Celebrity involvement

Ghanaian Hiplife artist and dedicated WHD supporter **Okyeame Kwame** once again organised a free screening and vaccination drive through his non-profit organisation, OK Foundation. He also urged the Ghanaian government to prioritise hepatitis elimination, highlighting a need for greater domestic investment, a dedicated elimination strategy, and better access to screening and treatment.

Miss Health Africa 2018/2019, **Ivory Chidi**, joined a hepatitis awareness and testing campaign in Abuja, Nigeria, and shared information about NOhep and the FMM campaign on her social media channels. She said WHD acted as a "clarion call" to Find the Missing Millions.

Member activity

Algeria

Association Nationale SOS Hépatites partnered with Laboratoires BEKER, a pharmaceutical company, to hold an awareness-raising and screening event for World Hepatitis Day. They held educational activities, including family friendly games, and screened attendees for hepatitis C.

Benin

No activity reported from **Alliance Béninoise des Organisations de la Société Civile Lutte Contre Les Hépatites Virales (ABOSCHVI)** or **Foie Sain Benin**

Burkina Faso

SOS Hépatites Burkina marked World Hepatitis Day with an advocacy and sensitization campaign. On 28 July they were invited to talk on the 'News at 1' about their campaign to Find the Missing Millions. On 29 July, they held a press conference under the same theme: 'Find the Missing Millions on the edge of the 2020 goal: State of play, challenges and perspectives'. Thirteen media groups attended the conference, including broadcasting, radio, digital and print organisations. Slam artist Yellow also joined their activities, having produced a song to raise awareness of viral hepatitis. They also held a screening and vaccination camp, testing 345 people for viral hepatitis and vaccinating 300 people against hepatitis B. They estimate their activities, including posts on social media, reached over 1,000 people.

Burundi

The **Association Pour La Lutte Contre Les Hépatites Virales** shared the Find the Missing Millions film on Facebook, across their communications channels and on their website.

Cameroon

Global Forum for the Defence of the Less Privileged (GFDLP) held a testing, vaccination and awareness-raising event in Buea to mark World Hepatitis Day. With 200 people in attendance, they tested 160 people for viral hepatitis. Media and press organisations also attended the event, along with the Head of Partnerships at South West Regional Delegation of Public Health and the Manager of HiTV Buea. GFDLP also shared the Find the Missing Millions film and promoted the WHD website across their communications channels.

Positive Generation marked World Hepatitis Day with an awareness-raising campaign in Yaoundé. They held awareness-raising activities over Cameroon's holiday football championships, which sees young football fans group into neighbourhood football teams during the school holidays.

No activity reported from **Association Camerounaise De Lutte Contre Les Hépatites (ACCHVR)** or **Natural Initiative for Voluntary Blood Donors (NIVBLODON)**

Côte d'Ivoire

No activity reported from **Ligue de Lutte Contre les Hépatites Virales** or **Union Contre la Co-Infection (UNICO)**

Democratic Republic of Congo

No activity reported from **Association d'encadrement des Personnes Infectées par L'hépatite (EPIH)**

Gambia

To commemorate World Hepatitis Day, **Hope Life International** held a policy event in Banjul. The aim of the event was to advocate for national treatment policies. Gambia's Minister of Health was in attendance, along with representatives from Gambia's WHO Country Office and other civil society organisations. During the event they also held a session to brief national media outlets. Online, they posted about WHD on Facebook, wrote a blog about viral hepatitis, and promoted the official WHD website across their communication channels.

Ghana

CEDAKU Foundation's CEO Cecil K Dovia wrote an article about viral hepatitis for Quest Buzz and shared it on social media.

Drive for Health Foundation Ghana partnered with the **Hepatitis Alliance of Ghana** to organise a capacity training workshop for healthcare providers in Ghana. Over 250 health providers attended, benefiting from the free training. At the event, their CEO Mr. Damasus Suglo held a press conference talking about the importance of WHD. They also shared Find the Missing Millions campaign materials on social media.

No activity reported for **Bridge Resources, Comfort Foundation, Cristal Healthline Foundation, Hepatitis Foundation of Ghana or Hepi-Pearl Foundation**

The Hepatitis Coalition of Ghana posted about the need to find the missing millions on Facebook on World Hepatitis Day.

The **Hepatitis Alliance of Ghana** partnered with **Drive for Health Foundation** to put on a capacity training workshop for healthcare providers in Ghana. More than 650 healthcare professionals attended the free training session, as well as the Municipal Health Director. They also held a testing and vaccination camp, testing 651 people and vaccinating over 340 people. Charles Adjei, Executive Director of Hepatitis Alliance of Ghana, also gave a live interview on TV with the Program Manager of National Viral Hepatitis Control, Ghana.

Save Your Liver Foundation Ghana (SYLF) commemorated World Hepatitis Day with their 'My Liver Family Conference' on 25 July in Accra. SYLF CEO Mr Nyaaba Aweeba Azongo was the guest speaker.

Long Life Africa marked World Hepatitis Day by holding a joint ceremony with other civil society organisations and the Ghana Health Service to commemorate the release of treatment guidelines for treating viral hepatitis in Ghana. The Deputy Minister of Communication chaired the event, which was heavily covered by national media. They also shared and gave a petition

to the Minister of Health at the ceremony pressing for the need for the immediate arrest of viral hepatitis in Ghana and shared Find the Missing Millions campaign materials across social media. On top of that, they held a testing and vaccination event in Sogakope, testing 100 people for viral hepatitis and vaccinating 80 people against hepatitis B.

Guinea

SOS Hepatites Guinée marked World Hepatitis Day by holding an awareness-raising event and campaign. They held a press conference with 60 media outlets to share their message, reaching nearly three million people. Their President and founder Professor Abdourahmane Diouria Diallo spoke on five different radio stations to raise awareness too.

Liberia

No activity reported from **Liberia National Hepatitis Foundation**

Malawi

Patient and Community Welfare Foundation's Director Ellos Lodzeni shared graphics and NOhep campaigning materials on social media to mark World Hepatitis Day.

Mali

SOS Hepatites Mali marked World Hepatitis Day at Mali's official celebrations which took place on 27 July at the Maison des Aines of Bamako, under the presidency of Mrs. Keita Aminata Maiga, First Lady. As a prelude to the celebrations, an inaugural press conference was held on 24 July at the WHO Mali Country Office. Between 20 July and 5 August, the Mali government organised a free screening campaign across the country under the theme 'Zero Epoch Week'. As part of this testing drive, government officials and civil society organisations, including SOS Hepatites Mali, and other stakeholders held free screening camps. Over 1,000 people attended SOS Hepatite Mali's event in Bamako city on 29 July.

No activity reported from **Association pour la Promotion de la Sante et le Developpement (APSAD)**

Mauritania

The **Association Mauritanienne de Lutte Contre Les Infections Virales (AMLIV)** held a Facebook Live discussing 100 questions about hepatitis B to mark World Hepatitis Day.

No activity reported from **Association Nationale pour la Promotion de l'Education et la Culture**

Mauritius

HepSupport marked World Hepatitis Day by holding a free testing camp for, and awareness-raising and education event about, viral hepatitis over a three day period. Through their work in partnership with the Government Elimination Committee, which gifted them access to medical facilities, they were able to ensure anyone found to have tested positive for viral hepatitis was

referred onto the care they need. HepSupport also held three radio talks during the week leading up to World Hepatitis Day, and placed an article in Mauritius' biggest selling daily newspaper. Online, they shared the Find the Missing Millions video and promoted the WHD website across their communication channels.

No activity reported from **Prevention, Information, Lutte Contre le Sida**

Nigeria

Beacon Youth Initiative (BYI) held several activities to celebrate World Hepatitis Day. They organised an awareness rally, media briefing and a screening and vaccination camp in partnership with fellow WHA member Seham Healthcare Foundation (SHECA), the Nasarawa State Ministry of Health, and Phillips Pharmaceutical Nigeria Ltd.

Chagro-Care Trust marked World Hepatitis Day by holding a screening and vaccination event. 920 people attended in total, 520 of them got tested for viral hepatitis and 127 were vaccinated against hepatitis B. Various high-profile guests and media outlet were also in attendance, including the Director of Public Health at the Ministry of Health in Taraba State, Dr Apake Ebenzar. They also organised an awareness-raising road walk, with live music and a novelty football match between two local Community Development Service groups named Hepatitis Virus and Hepatitis Drugs. Their activities received national, regional and local media coverage, reaching more than five million viewers across Nigeria. Online, they organised a campaign across social media to raise awareness of the missing millions, sharing the Find the Missing Millions film.

Community Development Awareness and Health Empowerment Foundation (CDAHEF) celebrated World Hepatitis Day with an advocacy, sensitization, awareness-raising and community outreach event in Ibadan, Oyo State, under the theme of Find the Missing Millions. The event targeted community leaders, role model mothers and youth groups. Over 3,000 people attended. They also shared the Find the Missing Millions World Hepatitis Day film.

Elohim Foundation commemorated World Hepatitis Day with an awareness-raising event in partnership with different stakeholders including women and youth leaders, and with support from the Federal Ministry of Health. This event was held at the palace belonging to the chief of the Angwan Dodo community. They chose to work with this community in particular as many members are at-risk populations, including female sex workers and people with learning disabilities. There, they held a free testing camp. They hope to establish this community as a micro sample site for monitoring the level of hepatitis incidence, prevention and treatment uptake among identified target groups in the community. Their executive Director Julius Ibecheole also held an educational lecture on viral hepatitis, its symptoms and how it is transmitted, followed by a question and answer session. 150 people attended the event, with 100 of them getting tested for hepatitis B and 50 for hepatitis C. Those who tested positive were referred to Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital for comprehensive care. The event was covered by the Africa Independence Television (AIT) press crew and independence News Paper Crew.

Gammun Centre for Care and Development marked World Hepatitis Day by posting Find the Missing Millions campaign materials on Facebook.

Hajo Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention shared several posts using Find the Missing Millions campaign materials across their social media platforms to mark World Hepatitis Day.

Hope for Healthy Life Foundation celebrated World Hepatitis Day by holding a series of testing and awareness-raising events across Jalingo. On 28 July they organised a road walk through Jalingo, distributing leaflets about viral hepatitis to raise awareness, before holding a health lecture and question and answer session, followed by free viral hepatitis screening and referrals. On 29 and 30 July they organised similar events for local police officers at Jalingo police headquarters, offering health education, free testing and free referrals to police officers, their spouses and other members of the public in the vicinity. In total, 700 people attended their events and 580 people were tested for viral hepatitis.

Hope Life Support & Empowerment Initiative marked World Hepatitis Day by holding a town walk rally to raise awareness of viral hepatitis followed by a testing event. They also held a press briefing at the event, which 100 members of the press attended. In total, over 1,000 people attended their community event, including the Permanent Secretary State Coordinator for the WHO Nigeria Country Office. They tested 600 people for viral hepatitis and their volunteers handed out countless more flyers and awareness-raising materials.

To mark World Hepatitis Day, **Kings Health and Development Initiative** held a sensitization walk alongside the Global Immunisation Centre. Over 70 people attended their event, including officials from New Agency of Nigeria, Ilorin Office, reporters from Kwara Television station and the Director of Public Health at the Ministry of Health of Ilorin. During the walk, they distributed educational materials and answered questions from members of the public. They were also active on social media, sharing Find the Missing Millions campaign materials and posters.

To commemorate World Hepatitis Day **LiveWell Initiative** partnered with **Women in Hepatitis Africa (WIHA)** to put on a ten day hepatitis programme to help find the missing millions. As part of this ten day programme, they held an awareness-raising advocacy walk with FMM banners and placards, and screening and vaccination camps. They succeeded in engaging those from the corporate sector, religious bodies, the general public and indigenous communities with their work. Overall, they reached and tested 1,500 people for viral hepatitis and vaccinated 300 people against hepatitis B. They also shared FMM messages and materials across social media, posted about WHD on their website, and shared messages on Whatsapp.

Malady Chase Foundation commemorated World Hepatitis Day by holding an awareness-raising and testing and vaccination event to help find the missing millions. The event was held at the Lungi army base in Abuja. Over 3,700 people attended, with at least 3,500 getting tested for viral hepatitis and 700 vaccinated against hepatitis B. They also held an interview with Radio Nigeria which was aired across all of Nigeria's 36 states on WHD itself.

Seham Health Care (SHECA) Foundation held free vaccination, testing and medical consultation camps to mark World Hepatitis Day. They also posted about WHD on social media and sent an email around to partners and stakeholders inviting them to also raise their voices on social media.

Trinity HealthCare Foundation (THF) held an array of activities across Nigeria to mark World Hepatitis Day. In Chikun Kaduna State they organised a viral hepatitis awareness carnival with a door-to-door awareness campaign. They also offered screening and vaccination. Over 600 people attended. In Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, they carried out an awareness-raising campaign for undergraduates at the University of Uyo. Every attendee was screened for viral hepatitis and 100 got vaccinated against hepatitis B. In Cross River State, they held a training session for young healthcare professionals on the ethics and principles of viral hepatitis awareness, advocacy, diagnosis, prevention and treatment. Finally, in Lagos they organised a viral hepatitis awareness and screening programme for elderly, disabled, and homeless people in Surulere Local Government Area of Lagos. A number of people were screened for hepatitis B and C. They also organised an awareness seminar for worshippers at the Church of Christ, Lekki, in Lagos State. On top of their screening and awareness-raising camps, they held a press conference in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, to appeal to the government to increase funding for the elimination of viral hepatitis in Nigeria. Their messages were published in several national newspapers. Overall, 4,620 people attended their events. 2,850 were tested for viral hepatitis and 482 were vaccinated against hepatitis B. THF also held a successful online campaign, sharing the Find the Missing Millions film, writing a blog and sharing campaigning materials across their social media platforms to raise awareness.

Women and Children Health Empowerment Foundation (WACHEF) marked World Hepatitis Day by holding a testing and awareness-raising event, as well as an online campaign. Their event specifically targeted internally displaced people, offering free hepatitis B and C testing and referrals for further care. More than 250 people attended their event and 209 people were tested. Online, they shared the Find the Missing Millions film and tweeted and posted on Facebook about World Hepatitis Day. They also encouraged people to join NOhep.

No activity reported from **Advocacy for the Prevention Of Hepatitis in Nigeria (APHIN), Grassroot Economic Empowerment Initiative (GREEINPROJECT), Shepherd Care Initiative (SCI) or Viral Hepatitis Association of Nigeria (VHAN)**

Rwanda

No activity reported from **Rwanda Organization for Fighting Against Hepatitis (ROFAH)**

Senegal

No activity reported from **Saafara Hépatites Sénégal**

Tanzania

To mark World Hepatitis Day, **People's Development Forum (PDF)** collaborated with the

Ministry of Health of Tanzania, other civil society organisations, staff from Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, the Tanzania pharmaceutical Student Association, and representatives from the WHO Country Office for Tanzania to put on an awareness-raising and educational public event. Hundreds of people attended the event, in which testing and vaccinations were also offered. PDF also held an awareness-raising campaign on social media, sharing the Find the Missing Millions film and posting about WHD on Facebook and Instagram.

Togo

No activity reported from **Association Sauvons L'afrique Des Hépatites (ASADH)**

Uganda

Giving Hope Foundation shared Find the Missing Millions campaign materials across social media on World Hepatitis Day, including an article about what viral hepatitis is on Facebook.

Save Your Liver Foundation Uganda marked World Hepatitis Day by sharing Find the Missing Millions campaign materials across their social media platforms.

To mark World Hepatitis Day, the **National Organisation for People Living with Hepatitis B (NOPLHB)** raised awareness of viral hepatitis across print and digital media platforms across Uganda and Africa. They organised a social media campaign, sharing the Find the Missing Millions film and posting campaigning materials on Facebook. They also wrote a blog. They reached over 1,000 people through their articles placed in leading national newspapers, including an article by their Executive Director Kenneth Kabagambe for the Daily Monitor.

No activity reported from **Cancer and Aids Relief Organization (CARO)**

Zimbabwe

No activity reported from **Hepatitis Zimbabwe Trust**