

World Hepatitis Day 2019 - Southeast Asia Regional Overview

Snapshot

9 countries participating
12 members celebrating
9 members using the Find the Missing Millions theme

Country commitments and announcements

WHO SEARO announced that **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal** and **Thailand** have become the first four countries in the region to achieve hepatitis B control.

At a ceremony held to mark World Hepatitis Day, **Myanmar** health authorities voiced a commitment to eliminating hepatitis, and Minister of Health and Sports Myint Htwe vowed to take action in line with WHO's 2019 WHD theme "Invest in Eliminating Hepatitis."

Celebrity involvement

None reported

Member activity

Bangladesh

The National Liver Foundation of Bangladesh (NLFB) organised Hepatitis Testing Week from 28 July to 3 August in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka. During this week, they distributed 25,000 informational FMM leaflets and tested 3,120 people for hepatitis B and C. They achieved widespread national media and television coverage, with their programme on the Prthom Alo online news portal reaching over 1.6 million people. Other coverage was secured on Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), BDnews24.com, New Age, ATN News, ATN Bangla, and Jamuna TV. They also organised a special seminar with the Chief Justice of Bangladesh, Syed Mahmud Hossain, and engaged other high profile individuals including Attorney General, Mahbubey Alam, and National Professor, Brig Abdul Malik. NLFB also published a WHD 2019 Souvenir, and organised a poster campaign where they shared WHA FMM materials on social media and reached 57,000 people on Facebook.

No activity reported from **Forum for the Study of the Liver** or **Viral Hepatitis Foundation Bangladesh**

India

Asian Liver Foundation conducted a hepatitis awareness program for some of the most marginalised members of the community. They visited Jagjeevan nagar, a slum in Anishbad, Patna, and talked about hepatitis to people living in poverty. They tested 102 people for hepatitis B and C, and also provided hepatitis B vaccinations. They will revisit this community to administer the required 3-dose course of hepatitis B vaccine. They also partnered with Rotary Chanakya, and distributed umbrellas to people as a symbol of protection and to remind them to get vaccinated. Umbrellas protect against the sun, and vaccines against hepatitis.

Chennai Liver Foundation held a month-long screening and vaccination camp, offering free consultation to those living with viral hepatitis. They appeared on a leading Tamil news TV channel for a live question and answer session, and made a three minute video to be aired on a popular Tamil entertainment TV channel. They also held an event with music and key influencers present to launch their programme to Find the Missing Millions, and organised a human chain across a main public road in Chennai to raise awareness.

Working in partnership with physicians, gastroenterologists from Manipur state, and experts from WHO India, **Community Network for Empowerment (CoNE)** helped to develop Manipur's state specific Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on hepatitis C, prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment, which was approved and officially released on World Hepatitis Day. They also observed the day with an awareness-raising motorcycle rally, and partnered with Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal to create and release a short video about hepatitis C on 27 July.

Hepatitis Foundation of Tripura spread a World Hepatitis Day message on Facebook, encouraging people to get tested to Find the Missing Millions. Their different branches held a range of activities in towns and cities in India's Tripura state, including vaccination events, health camps, awareness raising and community events, and policy events. More than 900 people were tested for hepatitis and 1000 were vaccinated against hepatitis B at these events. On 26 July, their president Dr Pradip Bhaumik announced HFT's new Mission 20-20 campaign to stop any new hepatitis B infections in Tripura state. To date, they have vaccinated an impressive 37 per cent of Tripura's population, which is approximately 1.4 million people.

Liver Foundation, West Bengal (LFWB) held their biggest World Hepatitis Day observations to date, partnering with the Government of West Bengal's Department of Health and Family Welfare to organise a day-long programme of events. At a convention co-organised by LFWB, the state government announced a new roadmap to eliminate viral hepatitis in West Bengal by 2030. LFWB also held a rally for the elimination of viral hepatitis, which started at the Victoria memorial in Kolkata, and ended at Nandan. Approximately 700 people took part, including 150 members of Kolkata Police's community programmes for vulnerable citizens, and students from three well-known Kolkata schools. LFWB also held their "28-29-30: Vital statistics for eliminating viral hepatitis" workshop/ exhibition which saw presentations, musical performances, a NOhep village exhibition, and a range of educational activities to raise awareness.

Rann Bhoomi Foundation organised an educational programme on WHD to educate young people about viral hepatitis, how it can be transmitted, and the consequences of the disease. This programme was part of their NOhep Delhi project, and saw more than 16,000 students and 800 teachers come together. They promoted WHA's Find the Missing Millions campaign, and vaccinated 80 people against hepatitis B. The organisation was also very active online, sharing the Find the Missing Millions Film, tweeting, posting on Facebook and Instagram, and using the

NOhep and FMM hashtags.

Tibetan Voluntary Health Association shared a post on social media raising awareness of viral hepatitis and offering an email address for members of the public to contact to ask questions about available treatment.

To commemorate WHD, **United Way Mumbai (UWM)** launched their new programme *United Against Hepatitis* – a network for a hepatitis-free society. The launch event also included a panel discussion on collaborative efforts by various stakeholders to eliminate hepatitis. The panel included Dr. Akash Shukla (Professor and Head of Department (HOD) - Gastroenterology, LTMG Hospital, Sion), Dr. Shobna Bhatia (Professor. and HOD - Gastroenterology, KEM Hospital, Parel) and Mr. Suresh Wadkar (Director, Mahila Vikas and Shishu Sanskar Kendra NGO). 22 NGOs attended the event, of which seven have become members of the network. UWM also drew attention to the Find the Missing Millions campaigns by using the NOhep and FMM hashtags.

No activity reported from **HepFree India, Jnana Shakti Foundation, National Liver Foundation, Public Awareness for Healthful Approach for Living (PAHAL) or Save the Liver Foundation,**

Indonesia

Yayasan Koalisi Satu Hati shared WHA's Find the Missing Millions campaign materials – including WHA President Michael Ninburg's message – on Twitter, and WHA's hepatitis patient film on Facebook.

No activity reported from **PKNI (Persaudaraan Korban Napza Indonesia)**

Myanmar

The Liver Foundation of Myanmar held a World Hepatitis Day ceremony at the University of Nursing, Yanon. The Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Myanmar Liver Foundation President Dr Khin Pyone Kyi, and WHO's representative in Myanmar Dr Stephen Paul Jost, delivered speeches at the ceremony. Myanmar Liver Foundation's Executive Secretary Dr Si Thura also read a message sent by WHA President, Mr Michael Ninburg. They also showed a short film about finding the missing millions in Myanmar. MLF Executive member and award-winning actress Lu Min also gave a work of thanks. Around 1,000 people attended the ceremony. Among them, 227 people were screened for hepatitis B and C, and hepatitis B vaccines were administered to 223 attendees.

Nepal

No activity reported from **Hepa Foundation or The Recovering Group**

Thailand

Thailand Hepatitis Alliance celebrated their 10th anniversary on World Hepatitis Day 2019, and held their 83rd and 84th WHD events. The events were held at local hospitals and consisted of a range of activities including blood tests, screening for hepatitis B and C, physical

examinations and fibrosis scans, seminars for medical professionals treating hepatitis patients, and information sessions delivered by medical specialists. More than 700 people attended and were tested for hepatitis at the events. 39 people tested positive for hepatitis B and C and were referred for further examination.

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