

Issue 21/2023

Weekly Public Health Report

Bosnia and Herzegovina

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WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY 2023



On 14 June 2023, **World Blood Donor Day** will be celebrated globally, as officially designated by the World Health Assembly in 2005. The day aims to celebrate and thank voluntary blood donors for their life-saving gift of blood. The event emphasizes the importance of universal access to safe blood transfusion. The ongoing challenge is the availability of sufficient and safe blood, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. WHO is actively assisting these countries in improving the availability and quality of human plasma, optimizing the utilization of plasma from blood donations and enhancing patient access to plasma protein therapies.

The 2023 World Blood Donor Day campaign's slogan is "**Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often**". The focus is on patients requiring lifelong transfusion support, emphasizing the importance of regular blood and plasma donation to ensure a constant, safe supply of blood products worldwide.

The objectives include celebrating and thanking blood donors, encouraging regular blood donation, highlighting the importance of voluntary, non-remunerated blood and plasma donations in achieving universal access to safe blood products, and mobilizing support to strengthen national blood programs.

Potential promotional activities for the slogan include donor appreciation ceremonies, social networking campaigns, media broadcasts, social media posts featuring blood donors, meetings, workshops, and artistic events. Countries are encouraged to share stories of lives saved through blood or plasma donation.

The global event of World Blood Donor Day 2023 will be hosted by Algeria through its National Blood Transfusion Service.

The need for blood is universal, but access to blood is not. Blood shortages are acute in low- and middle-income countries.

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-blood-donor-day/2023> and <https://www.paho.org/en/campaigns/world-blood-donor-day-2023>.

WHO AND THE GLOBAL FUND ANNOUNCE COMMITMENT FOR ENHANCED COLLABORATION



The World Health Organization (WHO) and The Global Fund To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund) have signed a revised Strategic Framework for Collaboration for the next five years. This agreement, which

builds on a prior one from 2018, aims to strengthen health systems and maximize collaboration in response to major communicable diseases. The framework aligns with the 2023-2028 Global Fund Strategy and the WHO General Programme of Work, focusing on community-centric health responses and addressing pandemic preparedness and climate change challenges.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, emphasized the necessity for WHO and the Global Fund to continue their combined efforts to support countries in expanding access to services for the three diseases in their journey towards universal health coverage, particularly given the slowdown in progress towards eradicating these epidemics. Peter Sands, Executive Director of The Global Fund, stressed the importance of their partnership amidst multiple crises and the need for close collaboration with national governments and other partners to strengthen community-driven health systems.

Their previous collaboration has resulted in significant country-level achievements, including more efficient HIV service delivery in 20 countries, early guidance on dual testing for COVID-19 and TB, progress towards malaria elimination, implementation of innovative approaches such as the new WHO Insecticide Treated Nets Guidelines, and support in the development of 50 national strategic plans aligned with WHO guidelines.

Through the new framework, WHO and The Global Fund plan to leverage their strengths across 35 areas for collaboration divided into 4 categories: Health policies and normative guidance; Advocacy and health governance; Health products and innovations; and Technical support and capacity building. Despite the progress, they acknowledge the urgent need for further work to end AIDS, TB, and malaria epidemics and build strong, resilient health systems.

The Global Fund's bold, ambitious new Strategy: Fighting Pandemics and Building a Healthier and More Equitable World sets out how the Global Fund partnership aims to accelerate impact towards the 2030 horizon and contribute to a world free of the burden of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria with better, more equitable health for all, as set out in Sustainable Development Goal 3. The Strategy's primary goal is to end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, with a particular focus on making catalytic investments and leveraging innovations to spur faster progress in reducing new infections, addressing structural barriers to improved HIV, tuberculosis and malaria outcomes and building equity, sustainability and lasting impact. The new Strategy puts people and communities at the center of all our work.

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/08-06-2023-who-and-the-global-fund-announce-commitment-for-enhanced-collaboration> and <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/strategy/>.

WHO/EUROPE LAUNCHES STRATEGIC PARTNERS' INITIATIVE FOR DATA AND DIGITAL HEALTH, INVITES STAKEHOLDERS TO APPLY

WHO/Europe has announced an open call for applications to join its new Strategic Partners' Initiative for Data and Digital Health (SPI-DDH), which is designed to leverage digital health technologies and data analytics in enhancing healthcare delivery. Applications are open to a variety of entities including member states, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations, WHO collaborating centres for data and digital health, philanthropic foundations, the private sector, and academic institutions.

The SPI-DDH will serve as a multistakeholder platform to improve the uptake of digital health technologies and manage health data in complex health systems. The initiative will identify effective practices, address gaps in data and digital health ecosystems, and contribute to the development of future-focused, person-centered European health systems. It will align with the WHO's Global Strategy on Digital Health and the Regional Digital Health Action Plan for the WHO European Region 2023–2030.

The SPI-DDH's objectives include enhancing the adoption of digital health in countries, promoting solidarity in digital healthcare, providing a learning platform for member states, and developing future scenarios for healthcare delivery and data usage.

Interested entities should register their interest by 10 July 2023, following which their eligibility will be evaluated by WHO. The SPI-DDH will operate till the end of 2025, after which its further operation will be evaluated.

Who can express interest?

WHO/Europe welcomes expressions of interest from the following entities:

- Member States of the WHO European Region, including governmental organizations, represented by ministers, senior representatives and officially nominated national and technical focal points for the Initiative;
- intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations agencies, the European Union and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- WHO collaborating centres for data and digital health;
- non-state actors – nongovernmental organizations, philanthropic foundations, academic institutions and the private sector.

Observers may be invited by the WHO Secretariat to exchange information and participate in meetings relevant to the implementation of the strategic priorities of the SPI-DDH.

Registering your interest

To register your interest in joining the SPI-DDH, please carefully read the terms of reference for the SPI-DDH and complete the online form by 10 July 2023.

WHO will determine whether interested entities are eligible and if they can be accepted as participants of the SPI-DDH. Only entities that fall within one of the categories listed above and fulfil the application criteria described in the terms of reference can be considered. Successful applicants will be informed in writing.

If you have any questions about this call for expression of interest or the SPI-DDH, please write to: EUDigitalHealth@who.int

THIRD GLOBAL REHABILITATION 2030 MEETING AND LAUNCH OF THE WORLD REHABILITATION ALLIANCE



Since the initiation of Rehabilitation 2030 in 2017, global events, including the COVID-19 pandemic and various conflicts and disasters, have underscored the importance of strengthening health systems. The Rehabilitation 2030 Call for

Action has, therefore, gained urgency, necessitating global cooperation across different stakeholder groups, sectors, and professions.

Significant progress has been made in the rehabilitation domain over the past six years, leading to key opportunities to speed up the Rehabilitation 2030 agenda and enhance access to these services globally. A highlight of these achievements was the adoption of the first-ever resolution on "Strengthening Rehabilitation in Health Systems" at the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly.

The upcoming Third Global Rehabilitation 2030 meeting will review the progress of the Rehabilitation 2030 Call for Action and strategize for future action. The meeting aims to acknowledge the resolution on "Strengthening Rehabilitation in Health Systems", comprehend approaches to driving the actions requested in the resolution, introduce new WHO tools facilitating resolution implementation, identify strategic opportunities for accelerating the Rehabilitation 2030 Call for Action, and launch the World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA).

Scheduled for 10 and 11 July 2023, the meeting will be held at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland and will be accessible in-person and virtually. It will include representatives from governments, rehabilitation service user groups, NGOs, civil society, funding bodies, international professional associations, research institutions, WHO, other United Nations agencies, and multilateral organizations. The event will offer live interpretation in all six UN languages.

Dates

10 July 2023 09:00 – 17:30 CEST

11 July 2023 09:00 – 17:30 CEST followed by an evening reception for the launch of the World Rehabilitation Alliance from 17:30 to

Registration

To virtually attend the 3rd Global Rehabilitation 2030 meeting, click on the following registration:

https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NW_680U0QsyGkX1-O0RvnA#/registration.

To virtually attend the launch of the World Rehabilitation Alliance on 11 July 2023, click on the following registration:

https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ycgl3KBjRJOIkxGTFwpskA#/registration.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing joining details.

For more information, please contact: rehabilitation@who.int.

More information is available at: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/ncds/sdr/rehabilitation/3rd-rehab2030-meeting-concept-note.pdf?sfvrsn=528ccffc_5 and <https://www.who.int/initiatives/world-rehabilitation-alliance>.

WORLD ANTIMICROBIAL AWARENESS WEEK REBRANDED AS WORLD AMR AWARENESS WEEK



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major global threat affecting various sectors, including human, animal, plant, food, and environmental domains. In 2019, it was associated with almost 5 million deaths, with 1.27 million deaths being directly caused by it. Addressing AMR necessitates a multi-sectoral, holistic approach known as a One Health approach.

In 2015, countries agreed on a Global Action Plan on AMR, with one of its core objectives being to enhance awareness and understanding of AMR through effective education, communication, and training. As part of this initiative, the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) was established as an annual campaign to globally amplify awareness and understanding of AMR.

The Quadripartite organizations - the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) - have now announced a rebranding of WAAW to World AMR Awareness Week. This rebranding, decided after two global consultation meetings and supported by stakeholders worldwide, more accurately reflects the challenge of resistance.

The theme for World AMR Awareness Week 2023 will continue to be "**Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together**", mirroring the 2022 theme. This was determined following a comprehensive online survey that gathered feedback from stakeholders across human, animal, plant, and environmental health sectors. The theme underscores the necessity for cross-sector collaboration to maintain the efficacy of critical medicines and combat AMR through a One Health approach. The annual campaign runs from 18 to 24 November each year.

KEY FACTS

- ✦ Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global health and development threat. It requires urgent multisectoral action in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ✦ WHO has declared that AMR is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity.
- ✦ Misuse and overuse of antimicrobials are the main drivers in the development of drug-resistance pathogens.
- ✦ Lack of clean water and sanitation and inadequate infection prevention and control promotes the spread of microbes, some of which can be resistant to antimicrobial treatment.
- ✦ The cost of AMR to the economy is significant. In addition to mortality and morbidity, prolonged illness results in longer hospital stays, the need for more expensive medicines and catastrophic expenditure.

More information is available at: [https://www.who.int/news/item/04-06-2023-world-antimicrobial-awareness-week-\(waaw\)-will-now-be-world-amr-awareness-week](https://www.who.int/news/item/04-06-2023-world-antimicrobial-awareness-week-(waaw)-will-now-be-world-amr-awareness-week) and [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)02724-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)02724-0/fulltext) and <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antimicrobial-resistance>.

LAUNCH OF CONSULTATIVE PROCESS TOWARDS REACH 2035 AGENDA: RESEARCH FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

WHO is launching the development of a global research agenda to catalyze research that will inform the mutual integration of climate and health action. **The Research for Action on Climate Change and Health agenda – REACH 2035** – will establish shared, forward-looking research priorities to meet the evidence needs of policy makers, program implementers, and advocates in protecting against and responding to the health impacts of climate change.

Climate change is one of the defining health challenges of the 21st century. A deep body of evidence underlies the scientific consensus, highlighted prominently in the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report, that human health and well-being are profoundly harmed by climate change. Promoting and protecting health in the face of growing climate impacts is thus a priority for the global health community.

Research on the health impacts of climate change has accelerated over the past decade. Yet, gaps in the evidence and a lack of applied research hinders the knowledge base needed to implement effective solutions – in the health, climate, energy, and other sectors – that can mutually advance climate change and global health goals.

REACH 2035 will serve as a global roadmap for those who lead and fund research: guiding research towards high priority, actionable questions; aligning research with the needs of communities and decision makers; and supporting the translation of evidence into policy and practice at all levels.

The process to develop REACH 2035 is launching in summer 2023. WHO will bring together policymakers and implementers at the city, national, and global level, researchers, civil society organizations, UN agencies, and funders, to participate in consultative workshops to co-develop research priorities. More information about REACH 2035, including a call for expression of interest for workshop participants and opportunities for public input and comment, is forthcoming.

KEY FACTS

- Climate change affects social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter.
- Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.
- The direct damage costs to health are estimated to be between USD 2-4 billion/year by 2030.
- Areas with weak health infrastructure – mostly in developing countries – will be the least able to cope without assistance to prepare and respond.
- Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through better transport, food and energy-use choices can result in improved health, particularly through reduced air pollution.

For more information, contact via email: reach2035@who.int.

More information also available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>.

LAUNCH OF THE WHO-EU DIGITAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP: A LANDMARK COLLABORATION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION

The World Health Organization (WHO) and European Commission have announced the inception of a notable digital health partnership. Starting from June 2023, the WHO will adopt the European Union's system of digital COVID-19 certification to establish a global network. This will ease global mobility and shield citizens from ongoing and future health risks, including pandemics. This forms the first part of the WHO Global Digital Health Certification Network (GDHCN) which aims to develop various digital products to enhance global health outcomes.

Building upon the EU's successful digital certification network, the WHO will provide all its Member States with access to an open-source digital health tool. This tool adheres to the principles of equity, innovation, transparency, and data protection and privacy. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, noted that the new digital health products under development aim to ensure people everywhere have quick and effective access to quality health services.

Based on the EU Global Health Strategy and WHO Global strategy on digital health, this partnership will expand on the agreement reached between Commissioner Kyriakides and Dr Tedros in November 2022. This agreement aimed to enhance strategic cooperation on global health issues, further strengthening a robust multilateral system with WHO at its core, supported by a powerful EU.

Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, expressed that the partnership is a crucial step for the EU Global Health Strategy's digital action plan. By employing European best practices, the partnership will contribute to setting global digital health standards and interoperability, benefitting those most in need.

This collaboration will entail joint efforts in the development, management, and implementation of the WHO GDHCN system, capitalizing on the European Commission's extensive technical expertise. The first step is to ensure the EU digital certificates continue to function effectively.

Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, stated that with 80 countries and territories connected to the EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate, the EU has set a global standard that has not only aided in the fight against the pandemic but also facilitated international travel and tourism.

The partnership will work to technically develop the WHO system with a staged approach to cover additional use cases, which may include the digitisation of the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis. This collaboration embodies shared values of transparency, inclusiveness, accountability, data protection, privacy, security, scalability, and equity. Particular emphasis will be placed on providing equal opportunities for low and middle-income countries. The system's first component becomes operational in June 2023 and will continue to be developed over the coming months.

More information is available at:

<https://www.who.int/news/item/05-06-2023-the-european-commission-and-who-launch-landmark-digital-health-initiative-to-strengthen-global-health-security>

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/global-digital-health-certification-network>

https://www.who.int/health-topics/digital-health#tab=tab_1

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/coronavirus-response/safe-covid-19-vaccines-europeans/eu-digital-covid-certificate_en

WHO LAUNCHES THE TB RESEARCH TRACKER, AN ONLINE PLATFORM TO TRACK PROGRESS IN TB RESEARCH

The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Tuberculosis Programme is launching a new online platform to track progress in the development of new treatment regimens, vaccines as well as operational research projects designed to improve TB prevention, treatment, and care.

The TB research tracker will serve as a single access point consolidating the latest information on TB clinical trials and operational research studies. Users will be able to search and filter the information by date, content, title, relevance, and type of study.

The TB research tracker will compile the descriptive information available from several existing platforms for clinical trials and all information available from ongoing operational research studies. Researchers, national TB programmes, donors, and technical agencies will be periodically contacted to ensure the timely update of the platform.

The screenshot displays the WHO TB Research Tracker interface. At the top, there is the WHO logo and navigation links for 'World Health Organization', 'Global Tuberculosis Programme', and 'External Links'. A language selection dropdown and a user profile icon are also visible. Below the navigation, the page title is 'Home / TB Research Tracker'. The main heading is 'TB Research Tracker', followed by a sub-heading: 'Use the table below to access the most up-to-date information on clinical trials, operational research and other studies on TB and MDR-TB'. A 'Filters' section includes a 'Reset' button, two toggle switches for 'Clinical Trials' and 'Operational Research', and a search box labeled 'Search by Keywords...'. Below the filters are dropdown menus for 'Indication', 'Theme', 'Location', 'Cohort Size', and 'End Date'. The main content is a table with the following data:

Name	Indication	Theme	Research Topic	Location	Cohort Size	End Date	Select
TB/FLU-01L	TB vaccines	New vaccine	Phase 1 reactogenicity safety and immunogenicity of TB/FLU-01L vaccine in BCG-vaccinated healthy adults	Kazakhstan, Russian Federation	36	Jan 2015	
AdHu5Ag85A	TB vaccines	New vaccine	Phase I study to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of an adenovirus-based TB vaccine administered by aerosol	Canada	36	Aug 2021	
A 6-Month Safety, Efficacy, and Pharmacokinetic (PK) Trial of Delamanid in Pediatric Participants With MDR-TB (Otsuka 233)	TB in children	New drug research	Assess Safety, Tolerability, PK, and Efficacy of Delamanid (OPC-67683) in Pediatric Multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis Patients (without HIV) on Therapy With an Optimized Background Regimen of Anti-	Philippines, South Africa	36	Jan 2020	

For any technical questions, please write to: gegiam@who.int.

The TB research tracker is accessible at: <https://tbtrialtrack.who.int/#/>.

More information is available at: <https://tbksp.org/en>.

FOURTH ANNUAL HEALTH FOR ALL FILM FESTIVAL: CELEBRATING HUMAN STORIES AND GLOBAL HEALTH THROUGH FILM



The World Health Organization has declared the winners of this year's Health for All Film Festival. Held at WHO's Headquarters in Geneva, the event was attended both in person and virtually by numerous actors, producers, public figures, and was marked by the announcement of winning films in 7 categories, and 4 special mentions.

This fourth edition of the festival showcased intense competition, with a shortlist of 93 films addressing diverse issues ranging from anxiety, depression, to the health implications of climate change and challenges faced by people with disabilities. A panel of esteemed professionals, artists, activists, and United Nations officials, including renowned actors Sharon Stone and Alfonso Herrera, choreographer Sherrie Silver, climate activist Sophia Kianni, and media personality Adelle Onyango judged the films.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, stated that the film festival helps humanize the scientific work of WHO, making it more accessible and relatable to the general public.

One "GRAND PRIX" was awarded for each of the three main competition categories: Universal Health Coverage, Health Emergencies, and Better health and well-being. Four special prizes were also presented for Student-produced film, a film on Climate Change and Health, a film on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and a Very Short Film.

This year's entries prominently featured mental health, with one striking short film from Sweden addressing anxiety and depression. Another poignant winning film from Bangladesh depicted a young boy suffering from lead poisoning due to a local factory's emissions.

Sharon Stone expressed her delight at being part of the festival, emphasizing the importance of universal health coverage as a fundamental human right, and the power of storytelling in advocating for better health conditions worldwide.

The awarded films, each carrying a unique message and perspective on health, include "Jonathan's Miracle Feet" from Sierra Leone (UHC "Grand Prix"), "Nurses facing Covid / Na Lihna de Frente" from Brazil (Health Emergencies "Grand Prix"), and "One in 36 Million: Story of Childhood Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh" (Better Health and Well-being "Grand Prix"). Other winners and special mentions spanned topics such as climate change, mental health, sexual and reproductive health, and more.

Details about the official selection, the jury composition, and information on how to watch the films and awards ceremony can be found on the WHO Film Festival website: <https://www.who.int/initiatives/health-for-all-film-festival>.

WHO ACTIVITIES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Workshop on Strategic Risk Assessment in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 5-7 June 2023

The Strategic Tool for Assessing Risks (STAR) was designed to assist governments in conducting an efficient, evidence-based assessment of public health risks for emergency preparedness and disaster risk management. The tool employs a participatory, six-step approach to describe a country's risks, estimate the impact, determine the level of risk, and draft key recommendations. The STAR workshop in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina will enable health authorities to make better-informed decisions to address public health threats and enhance community well-being.

The process begins with data collection on public health risks and available healthcare resources. The STAR tool is then used to assess the risk severity, likelihood, and response capacity. The assessment results allow authorities to prioritize risks and allocate resources effectively. Response planning follows, including the development of contingency plans and preventative measures. The final step involves monitoring and evaluating the response plan and adjusting it as necessary.

The STAR tool's objectives include understanding risk severity, improving preparedness and response efforts, promoting collaboration and coordination, effective resource allocation, promoting transparency in decision-making, and improving health outcomes.

The workshop follows a methodology based on guidance from the WHO and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). Participants include various stakeholders from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Ministry of Health, the Institute of Public Health, the Hydrogeological Institute, Civil Protection, the Veterinary Faculty at the University of Sarajevo, the Red Cross, Emergency Medical Services, and various Cantonal level institutions.

The facilitation team includes Sanjin Musa (IPH), Zlatan Peršić (MoH), Samir Džihić (CMC) from the Federation of BIH team; and Mirza Palo (WHO Country Office for Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rawi Ibrahim (WHO Health Emergency Hub for the Balkan) from the WHO team.



PIRI coordination meeting in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 7th June 2023

The Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization (PIRI) coordination meeting was convened on Wednesday 7 June 2023. The meeting was graced by representatives from health authorities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, focal points of cantonal Institutes of Public Health (IPHs), as well as WHO CO BIH team - Dr Stela Stojisavljević, NPO for Immunization, and Faris Dizdar, WHO Consultant.

PIRI encapsulates a spectrum of intermittent, time-limited activities with the ultimate objective of administering routine childhood vaccinations and bolstering awareness about the benefits of vaccination.

The coordination meeting served as an essential platform to review progress, share challenges, and strategize for improved reporting on routine childhood immunization. Participants took a constructive approach, focusing on aligning practices towards the effective administration of routine vaccinations and accurate recording and reporting.

During the discussion, participants brought forth various challenges encountered in routine immunization reporting, from logistical constraints to gaps in the recording and data management process. This open dialogue brought invaluable insights into the issues impacting the routine immunization program at the grassroots level. The meeting also emphasized the formulation of concrete steps to bolster the reporting of routine immunization. Participants deliberated on various strategies, including the strengthening of data management systems, enhancing training modules for health workers, and increasing community engagement and awareness initiatives.

The meeting concluded with a strong, shared commitment to improve routine immunization for children and reporting practices. A follow-up meeting was agreed upon to review progress and further refine strategies.

This coordination meeting underscores our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every individual have access to life-saving vaccinations. It cements our dedication to raising awareness about the benefits of vaccination, enhancing administrative coverage figures, and ultimately, safeguarding the health and well-being of our communities.





Wheelchair provision guidelines

Mobility is critical to human health and wellbeing. For individuals who depend on wheelchairs, access to suitable wheelchairs is paramount. Despite this, there are substantial global disparities in quality wheelchair provision, creating significant access barriers. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that about 1% of the world's population, or 80 million people, need a wheelchair for mobility, a number projected to rise with the ageing global population and increasing chronic health conditions.

To address this issue, WHO, in collaboration with the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics and the International Society of Wheelchair Providers, has launched new Wheelchair Provision Guidelines. These guidelines aim to enhance access to suitable wheelchairs for all in need, including children, the elderly, people with mobility impairments, and those with chronic health conditions. They are applicable globally, covering all types

of wheelchairs and users.

The guidelines emphasize that optimal wheelchair access results from an individualized process involving assessment, fitting, training, and follow-up by adequately trained personnel. Effective wheelchair provision systems are required, integrated within the health sector and beyond, including efficient referral networks. These systems may necessitate task-shifting and other strategies to mobilize the necessary workforce. The ultimate objective of these guidelines is to ensure timely access for wheelchair users to services that prioritize their needs.

The development of these guidelines involved experts from all six WHO regions, whose combined experience and thorough review of available evidence have contributed to a valuable resource. This resource will guide countries in improving wheelchair provision within healthcare systems and beyond. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is also recognized for their financial support of this initiative.

The guideline is available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240074521>.

WHO EVENTS

WHO at the 33rd International Confederation of Midwives Triennial Congress; 11-14 June 2023, Bali, Indonesia

Midwives contribute significantly to improving global health outcomes, playing pivotal roles in areas such as maternal and newborn care, infection prevention, family planning, and addressing gender-based violence. Investment in midwifery could prevent over 80% of current maternal deaths, stillbirths, and neonatal deaths.

In collaboration with the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), WHO attended the 32nd Triennial Congress, held virtually in June 2021. Here, they engaged in several activities focusing on maternal health, postpartum bleeding intervention, sexual and reproductive health rights, midwifery leadership, midwifery models of care, and infection prevention.

Specific discussions included an analysis of trends in maternal mortality from 2000-2020, a new trial for reducing postpartum bleeding, the launch of WHO resources on sexual and reproductive health topics, and promotion of midwifery leadership experiences. The Congress also highlighted the progress made in India towards developing a cadre of midwives to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes, discussed the guidance for countries transitioning to midwifery models of care, and lessons learned from the transition to these models in WHO South-East Asia countries.

A new evidence-based resource was presented to support midwives in preventing female genital mutilation, and the WHO Infection Prevention and Control global strategy was also discussed in relation to midwives and midwifery leaders. The ultimate goal of these sessions and resources was to strengthen midwifery globally, improve health outcomes, and uphold human rights.

Fifth Intergovernmental Negotiating Body Meeting: Strengthening Global Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response; 12-16 June 2023, Geneva, Switzerland

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) was established by the World Health Assembly in December 2021 to draft and negotiate an international instrument aimed at strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. The fifth meeting of the INB (INB5), held in April 2023, continued the evaluation of the Zero Draft of a potential pandemic accord and outlined plans for future negotiations. The aim is to present a draft accord for approval by the World Health Assembly in May 2024.

The next session of INB5 and its Drafting Group is set from 12-16 June 2023 to review these proposals. An informational meeting was held on 5 June 2023 in preparation for this session. The INB will start its work in a plenary meeting, open to WHO Member States and relevant stakeholders. The INB will invite these stakeholders to share their views on the first day of the meeting. Subsequently, the INB will continue its consideration of the proposals in a drafting group. This group will be limited to WHO Member States, Associate Members, regional economic integration organizations, and observer delegations of the Holy See and Palestine.

On the last day of the meeting, a procedural report will be discussed, which will also be webcast, and posted on the WHO website: https://apps.who.int/gb/inb/e/e_inb-5-resumed-session.html.

9 June 2023

SB58 Bonn Climate Change Conference side event: Integrating Health into the Global Stock take; 12 June 2023, Bonn, Germany

This side event, hosted by the World Health Organization, Global Climate and Health Alliance, Wellcome Trust and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, is part of the [Bonn Climate Change Conference](#) taking place from 5-15 June.

This session will focus on the links between health and climate change, including health losses and damages and co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation; showcase examples of policies across sectors that benefit people and the planet; and explore tools and recommendations for integrating health into the [Global Stocktake](#) (GST). It will explore the links between health and delivery of the Paris Agreement, spanning mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and means of implementation. Speakers will identify recommendations for the inclusion of health in the outputs of the Global Stocktake, including the integration of health in [Nationally Determined Contributions](#) (NDCs) and long-term strategies. There will also be an update on the wider integration of health at COP28 and discussion of common objectives across the climate and health communities.

In-person attendees must be registered for the conference: <https://unfccc.int/sb58#attend>.

Live streaming of the event can be followed here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/unfcccint>.

SOURCES

- <https://www.who.int/>
- <https://www.paho.org/en>
- https://commission.europa.eu/index_en
- <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/>
- <https://unfccc.int/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/unfcccint>
- <https://tbksp.org/en>

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