

South-East Asia Network for Newborn & Birth Defects

Quarterly Newsletter



WHO Collaborating Centre for Training and Research in Newborn Care
Collaborating Centre for Training in Clinical Laboratory Genetics in Developing
Countries Department of Pediatrics
AIIMS, New Delhi, India

Supported by World Health Organization, Regional Office for South East Asia &
National Center on Birth Defects & Developmental Disabilities, CDC, USA

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Progress in SEAR-NBBD



World Health
Organization
Regional Office for South-East Asia

SEAR-NBBD
(Newborn and Birth Defects Database)



Celebrated World Birth Defects Day on 3 March 2021

To increase global awareness of birth defects, March 3 every year marks World Birth Defects Day (WBDD). WHO-SEARO is one of several founder global organizations to promote this special day.

Birth Defects (BD) have been recognized as an emerging cause of under-five morbidity and mortality in the South East Asia region. Prevention and control of birth defects will augment reduction of neonatal and child mortality and accelerate progress towards SDG3.

The Regional strategic framework for prevention and control of birth defects prepared by WHO-SEARO with support of CDC Atlanta has assisted countries to develop national plans for prevention and care of birth defects including birth defects surveillance. An online birth defects surveillance network (SEAR-NBBD) has been established and has been collecting and analyzing data on birth defects and still births. More than 150 hospitals from 7 countries are consistently reporting data to the online system. By end of 2020 more than 3.6 million births have been reported including about 38 000 babies born with birth defects. The progress made in our Region has been widely acknowledged.

The World Birth Defects Day provided an opportunity to advocate for increased economic, political, and popular support to improve birth defects surveillance, prevention, care, and research by global communities and countries.

What WHO-SEARO has done to observe this day in 2021?

1. Disseminated the information on WBDD-2021 and encouraged our network institutions to observe the day with related activities.
2. RD's message, Media Statement and Web Story were circulated
3. Birth Defects campaign was undertaken on social media channels of WHO - Facebook and Twitter

4. Network members undertook activities in their institutions

WBBD 2021 helped build momentum to raise awareness about birth defects, their prevention and management and encouraged stakeholders to undertake activities in collaboration with local partners and stakeholders.

Regional Meeting: To review the progress in implementation of national plan for birth defects prevention and control in the countries of South-East Asia, 24 November 2020

- To review the progress in prevention, surveillance and care of birth defects in the countries
- WHO-SEARO organized a virtual meeting on 24 November 2020 to review the country progress and their plans for the next year.
- MOH and WCO Focal Persons for birth defects were invited to share the progress in implementation of national plans for prevention and control of birth defects including the birth defects surveillance. A template was provided to prepare the presentation.

All countries reported progress in surveillance and prevention activities.

Intercountry Workshop: To build capacity in strengthening birth defects surveillance focusing on quality and analysis of data, 25-26 November 2020

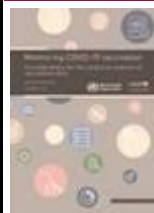
With an objective to improve quality of surveillance, capacity to analyze data and use data for public health action, WHO-SEARO and CDC organized a 2-days virtual workshop on November 25-26, 2020. Focal points for birth defects surveillance from NBBD hospitals were invited and about 120 participants from SEAR countries attended this workshop. Zoom digital platform was used to host this meeting.

The following pre-workshop activities were suggested to the invitees before they joined the workshop:

- Online basic course on birth defects surveillance: Hospital focal points were expected to complete the ICBDSR course and get the certificate.
- Basic standard analysis of hospital specific data from NBBD Database: Hospital focal points were provided data for the last 2 years and exercise on analysis for them to practice.

An advanced training on maintaining quality of data was provided by experts from WHO and CDC, Atlanta.

Publications



Monitoring COVID-19 vaccination: Considerations for the collection and use of vaccination data

This document provides guidance about: minimum and optional data to collect as vaccines are being rolled out and delivered; key performance indicators and the anticipated use of these – to measure the performance of key components of the immunization system and to take corrective action when needed; and the use of information systems to collect, store, analyze and disseminate any relevant information.”

[Read full text](#)



HOW TO MONITOR & REPORT COVID-19 VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

Health workers play a key role in ensuring the continued safety of COVID-19 vaccines: It's extremely rare for severe health reactions to be directly caused by vaccines. But reporting & investigating adverse events will ensure that COVID-19 vaccines continue to meet high safety standards.

[Read full text](#)

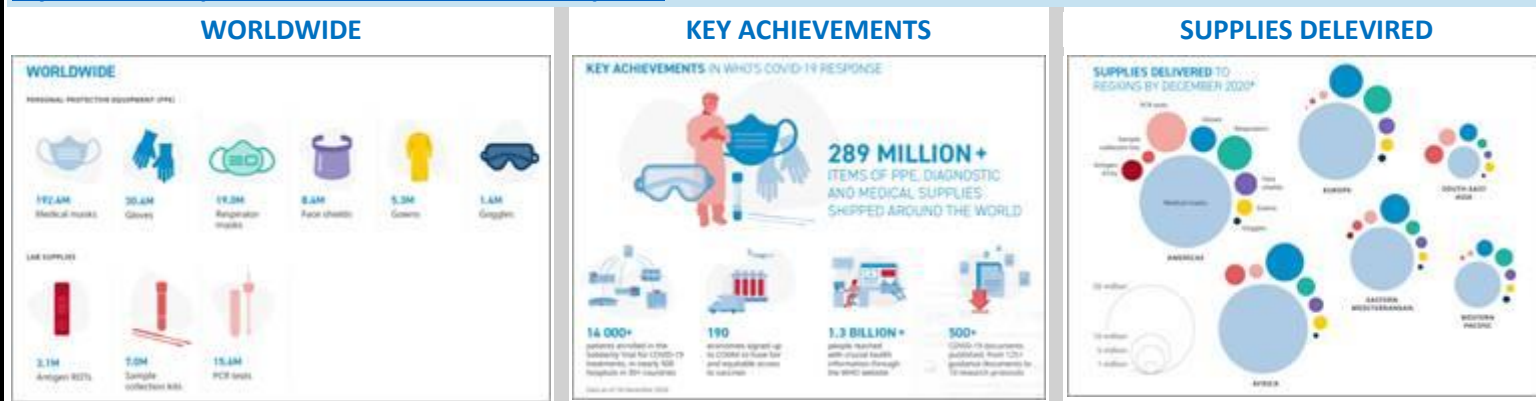
Recent Articles

- [COVID-19 in Children, Pregnancy and Neonates: A Review of Epidemiologic and Clinical Features.](#)
- [A Preparedness Model for Mother-Baby Linked Longitudinal Surveillance for Emerging Threats](#)
- [Stillbirth outcome capture and classification in population-based surveys: EN-INDEPTH study](#)

- [Associations between social and behavioural factors and the risk of late stillbirth – findings from the Midland and North of England Stillbirth case-control study](#)
- [Evidence-based interventions to reduce mortality among preterm and low-birthweight neonates in low-income and middle-income countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
- [How to do no harm: empowering local leaders to make care safer in low-resource settings](#)
- [Quality improvement initiative to improve the duration of kangaroo mother care for twin preterm neonates born at a tertiary care hospital in resource-limited settings](#)
- [Quality improvement for NICU graduates: Feasible, relevant, impactful](#)

Multimedia center

A year without precedent: WHO's COVID-19 response



Upcoming Meetings/ Events

World Congress on Pediatrics and Neonatology

23-24 Mar, 2021

London, UK

[Click for more information](#)

International Conference on Epileptology

03-04 May 2021

Rome, Italy

[Click for more information](#)

International Conference on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

27-28 May 2021

Tokyo, Japan

[Click for more information](#)

Global Congress on Virology, Vaccine Research & Development

10-11 Jun 2021

Boston, USA

[Click for more information](#)

International Conference on Neonatal Nursing and Newborn Infants

24-25 June 2021

Oslo, Norway

[Click for more information](#)

Building bridges in Birth Defects Research and Prevention

26-30 June 2021

Pennsylvania

[Click for more information](#)

International Conference on Emergency Medicine and Acute Care

26-27 July 2021

London, United Kingdom

[Click for more information](#)

Driving Change in Stillbirths, SIDS, and Infants deaths

11-12 Nov, 2021

Brisbane, Australia

[Click for more information](#)

International Conference on Fetal and Neonatal Medicine

16-17 December 2021

Barcelona, Spain

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