Healthier Populations
Webinar Series

Responding to country and partner requests due to impact from COVID-19

• Repurpose/rearrange health system infrastructures, as well as reprioritize health programmes at national/subnational levels
• Address unintended consequences from system responses to COVID-19 and from public health and social measures (PHSMs)

Objectives

• To support Member States of the WHO SEA Region in promoting health and maintaining essential health services during the time of COVID-19 and beyond, including by identifying the most critical disruptions of/bottlenecks in programme delivery created by the COVID-19 pandemic
• To build regional collective capacity through knowledge and experience sharing mechanisms

Audience

These webinars are open to all.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 June</td>
<td>Suicide prevention in the context of COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>Tackling tobacco and COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 June</td>
<td>Health-care waste management COVID-19 and beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 July</td>
<td>eHealth to strengthen frontline NCD and mental health services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 July</td>
<td>Healthy cities for COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 July</td>
<td>Rehabilitation and palliative care: most neglected services during COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 July</td>
<td>New norms of workers’ health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 July</td>
<td>Scaling up nutrition action and healthy diet during and after COVID-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registration information

All webinars will last 60 minutes and take place at the following times: **13:00 hours (IST)**

Register here to join the webinar on Zoom at: https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4hsnHWcSRYCkm7YsH58bnA
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For details of other courses and related material of the webinar, please visit [https://www.who.int/southeastasia/healthierpopulations/](https://www.who.int/southeastasia/healthierpopulations/)

**Healthier Populations Webinar Series**

**Rehabilitation and palliative care: most neglected during COVID-19**

**Thursday, 16 July 2020**

**Key discussion points (Rehabilitation)**

- COVID-19 has significantly reduced the provision of rehabilitation care and the impact of this on people with disabilities is evident.
- There are multiple considerations in favour of the continuity of rehabilitation care during the COVID-19 outbreak and it is important that essential services are maintained.
- Rehabilitation plays a significant role in the management and recovery of people who experience a severe case of COVID-19.
- Armed with their lessons learnt, countries have expanded the scope of tele-health for the continuity of rehabilitation services during the pandemic.

**Key discussion points (Palliative care)**

- Palliative care services in most countries in the South-East Asia Region are weak. Where available, these are mostly focused at the tertiary level of care.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has further disrupted the access to palliative care services for people living with chronic conditions in the Region.
- Palliative care services should be an integral component of universal health care.
- Building back stronger and better NCD services should ensure that palliative care services become a core component of the response for essential health services.
- Community-based palliative care services should be promoted by moving the care from institutions to closer to the people.

**Panelists**

**Moderator**

Dr Mathew Varghese  
Head, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
St. Stephen’s Hospital  
Delhi, India

Ms Pauline Kleinitz  
WHO Rehabilitation Programme  
Geneva, Switzerland

Dr Yadu Chandra Ghimire  
Director, National Health Training Centre  
Nepal

Dr Thaksaphon (Mek) Thamarangsi  
Director, Healthier Populations and Noncommunicable Diseases (HPN)  
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New Delhi, India

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