

WHO South-East Asia webinar series on prevention and control of snakebite envenoming

Dates: 3 days at the end of July 2025 [17, 24 and 31 July 2025]

Time: 14:00 - 16:30 **India Standard Time**

Maldives (Male): IST – 00:30; **Sri Lanka** (Colombo): IST + 00:00; **Nepal** (Kathmandu): IST + 00:15; **Bangladesh** (Dhaka) & **Bhutan** (Thimphu): IST + 00:30; **Myanmar** (Yangon): IST + 01:00; **Thailand** (Bangkok): IST + 01:30; **DPR Korea** (Pyongyang) & **Timor Leste** (Dili) IST + 03:30

Platform: virtually on Zoom

Background

Snakebite envenoming is a significant public health issue in the WHO South-East Asia Region, affecting millions annually and causing tens of thousands of deaths. The region is a biodiversity hotspot for venomous snakes, and the intersection of human activities with snake habitats increases the risk of snakebites. The Regional Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (2022–2030) aims to reduce snakebite-related deaths and disabilities by 50% by 2030 through comprehensive strategies involving community engagement, improved access to treatment, and enhanced surveillance.

The webinar series aims to:

- **Raise awareness:** Increase understanding of snakebite envenoming as a critical public health issue.
- **Provide updates:** Share the latest data and developments in snakebite surveillance and control.
- **Capacity building:** Equip participants with knowledge and skills to effectively manage snakebite cases and engage communities in prevention efforts.

Each webinar will focus on a specific area covering national to global updates and surveillance, education and effective community engagement as well as emergency response and case management.

The webinar targets a wide variety of stakeholders including public health officials, healthcare providers and emergency responders, community leaders and NGOs, researchers and academic as well as community members interested in the topic.

Webinar Details

- 17 July 2025: *Progress and Updates on Snakebite Envenoming* - Latest Insights and Data for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming in South-East Asia
- 24 July 2025: *Empowering Communities Against Snakebites* - Best Practices and Innovative Approaches to Community Education and Involvement
- 31 July 2025: *Mastering Emergency Response for Snakebites* - Advanced Techniques in Treatment and Case Management

Moderated by National Centre for Disease Control India and WHO-SEARO.

17 July 2025

Latest Insights and Data for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming in South-East Asia

Time	Topic	Speaker
Global updates and governance		
14:00 – 14:05	Opening Remarks	Dr Suman Rijal, WHO-SEARO
14:05 – 14:15	Global updates	David Williams, WHO HQ
14:15 – 14:25	Programmatic activities and support on snakebite envenoming in the Region	George Phillips, Wellcome Trust
14:25 – 14:45	Successful programme development and multi-sectorial engagement	Ajit Shewale, India
14:45 – 14:55	Indonesia's strategy to reduce the fatality of snakebites	Tri Maharani, Indonesia
Burden assessment		
14:55 – 15:05	Burden of snakebite in Bangladesh	Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Bangladesh
15:05 – 15:15	Assessing the burden of snakebite in Nepal applying a One Health approach	Sanjib Sharma, BP Koirala, Nepal
15:15 – 15:30	Questions & Answers	All previous speaker
15:30 – 15:35	Break	
15:35 – 15:45	WHO progress on predicting snake habitats and snakebite risk using a mechanistic approach	Anna Pintor, WHO HQ
Data collection, management and reporting		
15:45 – 15:55	WHO DHIS2 country reporting tool	David Williams, WHO HQ
15:55 – 16:05	Data collection: differentiating snakebites from snakebite envenoming	Malick Gai, Julia Sube, WHO South Sudan
16:05 – 16:15	Establishment of Papua New Guinea's antivenom inventory and data management system	David Williams, WHO HQ
16:15 – 16:30	Questions & Answers	All previous speaker

24 July 2025

Best Practices and Innovative Approaches to Community Education and Involvement

Time	Topic	Speaker
Community awareness and training		
14:00 – 14:05	Opening of the webinar	
14:05 – 14:15	WHO Community Education Toolkit	Bethany Moos, WHO HQ (recorded presentation)
14:15 – 14:25	Awareness outreach at the grassroots level - Capacity building of medical staff & health workers	Priyanka Kadam, Snakebite Healing and Education Society India (recorded presentation)
14:25 – 14:35	Community engagement in Bangladesh	Md. Abul Faiz, Bangladesh
14:35 – 14:50	Effective and safe first aid for communities	David Williams, WHO HQ
14:50 – 15:00	Safe snake handling practice and training of snakebite first aid - the prevention through community education in Thailand	Taksa Vasaruchapong, Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute, Thai Red Cross Society
15:00 – 15:10	SERPENT (Snake Emergency Response Programme & Response Tool	Jose Louies, Indiansnakes.org
15:10 – 15:30	Questions & Answers	All previous speaker
15:30– 15:35	Break	
Spotlight: Community champions		
15:35 – 15:45	• Gnaneswar Ch and Rom Whitaker	Madras Croc Bank, India
15:45 – 15:55	• Dr Sadanand Raut	Maharashtra, India
15:55 – 16:05	• Deb Pandey	Nepal
16:05 – 16:20	Questions & Answers	All previous speaker
16:20– 16:30	Community education video	NCDC India

31 July 2025

Effective Approaches to Treating and Managing Snakebite Envenoming Cases

Emergency response		
14:00 – 14:05	Opening of the webinar	
14:05 – 14:30	Interactive session: emergency response	Ravikar Ralph, CMCV (recorded presentation)
	How to develop locally relevant flashcards/treatment algorithms for health facilities – examples & discussion	Facilitation: David Williams, WHO HQ
14:30 – 14:40	Introducing antivenoms	David Williams, WHO HQ
14:40 – 14:55	Decentralization of snakebite antivenom treatment to indigenous community health centers in the Brazilian Amazon: From demand to the first treatment (the SAVING Program)	Wuelton Monteiro, Brazil (recorded presentation)
14:55 – 15:05	Lessons learnt from reviewing SBE in the WHO African Region	Mike Turner, WHO HQ (recorded presentation)
15:05 – 15:10	Break	
Case management		
15:10 – 15:25	SBE case management and capacity building in Bangladesh	Md. Robed Amin, Bangladesh
15:25 – 15:40	SBE case management and referral protocol development and capacity building	NCDC India
15:40 – 15:55	SNAICS (Snakes, Artificial Intelligence, and Communities) - Artificial Intelligence for identifying biting snakes in a healthcare setting in Nepal	Rafael Ruiz de Castaneda, University of Geneva
15:55 – 16:25	Questions & Answers	All previous speaker
16:25 – 16:30	Closing remarks	Aya Yajima, WHO-SEARO