

APPEAL FOR OBSERVING THE WORLD BIRTH DEFECT DAY 2016

Dear Colleagues

March 3, 2016: World Birth Defects Day

Did you know that

Birth defects (also referred as Congenital anomalies) affect an estimated 1 in 33 infants and result in approximately 3.2 million birth defect-related disabilities every year. An estimated 270 000 newborns die during the first 28 days of life every year from birth defects.

Birth defects may result in long-term disability, which may have significant impacts on individuals, families, health-care systems and societies.

Many birth defects can be prevented. For example, vaccination, adequate intake of folic acid and iodine, and adequate antenatal care are keys for prevention.

You are aware that following the development of Regional Strategic Framework for prevention and control of birth defects WHO has assisted countries to develop national plans for prevention of birth defects and establish birth defects surveillance mechanisms. The progress made in our Region has been widely acknowledged.

To increase global awareness of birth defects, March 3 marks World Birth Defects Day every year.

What You Can Do

Help us build momentum for this worldwide effort to raise awareness of birth defects, their prevention and management. We encourage you to inform MoH, other policy makers and partners; display posters in the building and MoH (standees prepared by SEARO can be locally printed – link is provided below); organize an event like a scientific seminar, a public lecture, social event e.g. March/procession by students; write a message in national media; and use social media.

Following materials will be of use to you:

1. Link to resource files for posters (standees): <ftp://10.11.13.50/SEAROFTP/FHR/CAH/> [please copy and paste this link in Windows Explorer / My Computer]
2. Link to WHO-SEARO Policy Briefs: <ftp://10.11.13.50/SEAROFTP/FHR/CAH/> [please copy and paste this link in Windows Explorer / My Computer]
3. SEARO website on our work on birth defects in the Region (http://www.searo.who.int/entity/child_adolescent/topics/child_health/birth_defects/en/)

Look forward to collaboration & support.

With Best Regards

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BIRTH DEFECTS IN INDIA- FACT SHEET

A. MAGNITUDE

1. Birth defects are Common & Critical- In India prevalence of birth defects is 64.3/ 1000 live births (March of Dimes, Global Report on birth Defects, 2006) amounting to 1.7 million children born with Congenital Birth defect which is 6% of the total births. Birth defects are common, costly and critical health challenges particularly in India where 7700 newborn deaths occur due to birth defects alone annually. However, a large number of these deaths can be prevented with cost effective measures through the existing health care systems.
2. Children born with birth defects are living longer, well into adulthood. These children, and their families, need proper treatment, appropriate care, and social support to improve their overall quality of life.

B. PRIMARY PREVENTION MESSAGES

1. Here is some important information: All women capable of becoming pregnant should plan their pregnancy and make sure to be as healthy as they can be.

Before you become pregnant:

- Take a multivitamin with 400 micrograms (0.4 milligrams) of folic acid
 - If you take medication, check with your doctor
 - If you have diabetes, make sure your blood sugar is well controlled
 - If you have other medical problems, check with your doctor
 - Know your family's history regarding birth defects
 - And, of course, you already know to stop:
 - smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, and using illicit drugs
2. Please Join our World Birth Defects Day – Spread to work to raise awareness

C. BIRTH DEFECT SURVEILLANCE

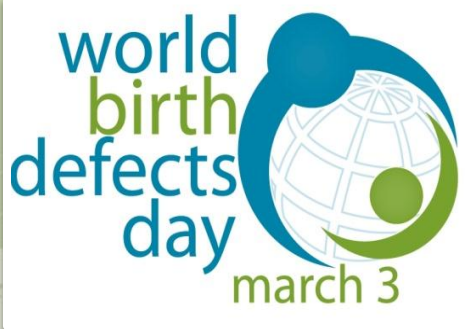
3. Enroll your institution under the Newborn and Birth Defects Database. Contact

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Join us on March 3, 2016, to promote World Birth Defects Day, raise awareness of birth defects and expand birth defects surveillance prevention, care and research worldwide.

Promote on websites and social media channels, including Thunderclap

Organize a meeting for the general public

Write an article for a magazine or newspaper

Organize a press conference

Organize a social event

Organize a scientific meeting

...or any other activities that would disseminate information

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

World Birth Defects Day
March 3, 2015

WHO Regional Office For South-East Asia

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health

Organización Panamericana de la Salud

Organización Mundial de la Salud - Américas

CENTRO LATINOAMERICANO DE PERINATOLOGIA Y SALUD DE LA MUJER Y REPRODUCTIVA CLAPISRH

ECLAMC

EDRIC

eurolcat
european surveillance of congenital anomalies

IFSBH

International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research

march of dimes

neonatal alliance

NBDPN
NATIONAL BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION NETWORK

Look at the 2015 WBDD report to see what was done during the first edition:
<http://www.icbdsr.org/page.asp?p=21718&l=1>

For any details or additional information, please contact: centre@icbdsr.org