

Media Update

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ILO

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World Day for Safety and Health at Work

How data can help protect workers' health and lives

This year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work focuses on the critical need for countries to improve their capacity to collect and utilize reliable occupational safety and health data. Dr Francisco Santos-O'Connor (ILO Senior Specialist in Occupational Safety and Health – OSH for Asia) explains the importance of optimizing the collection and use of these data.

According to the latest ILO estimates, 1.4 million work-related deaths occur annually in Asia and the Pacific out of the 2.3 million worldwide. This means the region accounted for 70 per cent of the global fatal occupational accidents and 60 per cent of the work-related fatal diseases. Most work-related deaths and non-fatal accidents occur in low- and middle-income countries of the region. However, in reality, the situation in Asia-Pacific could be even worse as the problem can only be estimated due to the lack of data.

Challenges in collecting OSH data that is accurate, comparable and timely hinder the analysis of scope, nature, causes and impact of occupational accidents and disease.

Official reporting requirements are based on multiple criteria which change over time and do not cover all categories of workers (such as self-employed and informal workers).

In fact, no country reports all work-related diseases. Even countries with well-established reporting practices often do not report all cases, particularly non-fatal

injuries or occupational diseases. Therefore, official figures provide only a partial assessment of the situation which to date can be only estimated.

Yet, such information and analysis is pivotal for devising effective and evidence-based policies and preventive measures both at country and enterprise levels. Improved OSH data can help secure working environments for all workers. It draws attention on high risk activities and most vulnerable categories of workers. It enables labour inspectorates to carry out their preventive mandate by It gives countries the means to monitor and assess the needs for and the impact of their OSH policies.

Over the past century, measures have been developed to improve OSH reporting and new technologies can facilitate access to timely sources of information on occupational safety and health data.

The ILO and its member States started to work on improving OSH data comparability in 1923, when industrial accident statistics were placed on the agenda of the First International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Moreover, [ILO OSH Conventions](#) require ratifying member States to establish mechanisms to collect reliable OSH data and the ILO has also developed [tools to support this work](#).

Contributing to the implementation of [Sustainable Development Goal 8](#)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls on countries to collect, utilize and report OSH data as a means to measure progress in protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers.

Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will require quality and accessible data collection. Regional follow-up and review will be based on national-level analyses and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level.

The ILO works to promote a culture of prevention on OSH to protect all workers' health and lives. It can be achieved with the joint commitment of governments, workers and employers, and with accurate, comparable and timely data.

[Further information on World Day for Safety and Health at Work](#)

UNIDO

Press Release

Cooperation Agreement has been signed between Industries, Commerce and Investment Department (IC&ID) to support Punjab Cluster Development Initiative

In the framework of the Punjab jobs and competitiveness programme, the government of Punjab has signed a cooperation agreement with UNIDO to provide technical assistance for the development of industrial clusters in Punjab province and to support their further integration into global value chains.

The purpose of CDI is to create an enabling environment for growth and prosperity of industries, to create better quality of life through economic uplift in Punjab and to up-grade technology and enhance productivity quality and profitability of local industries. The lead on the implementation of the CDI for the Government of Punjab is with the Punjab Small Industries Cooperation (PSIC) as a government institution.

A Cooperation Agreement has been signed to this effect between Industries, Commerce and Investment Department (IC&ID), Government of Punjab, and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Lahore on 26 April, 2017. Mr. Muhammad Mujtaba Paracha, Secretary IC&ID, Government of Punjab and Mr. Esam Alqararah (UNIDO Representative in Pakistan) signed the TFA on behalf of their respective organizations for the implementation of "Cluster Development Initiative (CDI): A way forward to economic growth".

The Cluster development project is a part of a joint initiative of World Bank Group and Government of Punjab under Punjab jobs and competitiveness program. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Vincent Palmade (Team Leader, World Bank Group), Mr. Khalid Saleem (MD Punjab Small Industries Corporation) and other officials.

UNIDO has been engaged as partner implementing agency for the CDI project based on earlier interventions in the area of trade-related capacity-building and development of industrial clusters both in Pakistan and globally.

UNICEF

Press Release

UNICEF reaches almost half of the world's children with life-saving vaccines

Despite progress, millions of children still miss out on life-saving immunization

New York, 26 April 2017 – UNICEF procured 2.5 billion doses of vaccines to children in nearly 100 countries in 2016, reaching almost half of the world's children under the age of five. The figures, released during World Immunization Week, make UNICEF the largest buyer of vaccines for children in the world.

Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan, the three remaining polio-endemic countries, each received more doses of vaccines than any other country, with almost 450 million doses of vaccines procured to children in Nigeria, 395 million in Pakistan and over 150 million in Afghanistan. UNICEF is the lead procurement agency for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Access to immunization has led to a dramatic decrease in deaths of children under five from vaccine-preventable diseases, and has brought the world closer to eradicating polio. Between 2000 and 2015, under five deaths due to measles declined by 85 per cent and those due to neonatal tetanus by 83 per cent. A proportion of the 47 per cent reduction in pneumonia deaths and 57 per cent reduction in diarrhea deaths in this time is also attributed to vaccines.

Yet an estimated 19.4 million children around the world still miss out on full vaccinations every year. Around two thirds of all unvaccinated children live in conflict-affected countries. Weak health systems, poverty and social inequities also mean that 1 in 5 children under five is still not reached with life-saving vaccines.

“All children, no matter where they live or what their circumstances are, have the right to survive and thrive, safe from deadly diseases,” said Dr. Robin Nandy, Chief of Immunization at UNICEF. “Since 1990, immunization has been a major reason for the substantial drop in child mortality, but despite this progress, 1.5 million children still die from vaccine preventable diseases every year.”

Inequalities persist between rich and poor children. In countries where 80 per cent of the world's under-five child deaths occur, over half of the poorest children are not fully vaccinated. Globally, the poorest children are nearly twice as likely to die before the age of five as the richest.

“In addition to children living in rural communities where access to services is limited, more and more children living in overcrowded cities and slum dwellings are also missing out on vital vaccinations,” said Nandy. “Overcrowding, poverty, poor hygiene and sanitation as well as inadequate nutrition and health care increase the risk of diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhea and measles in these communities; diseases that are easily preventable with vaccines.”

By 2030, an estimated 1 in 4 people will live in urban poor communities, mainly in Africa and Asia, meaning the focus and investment of immunization services must be tailored to the specific needs of these communities and children, UNICEF said.

For photos, visit: <http://weshare.unicef.org/Package/2AMZIFDKDKD>

NOTES TO EDITORS:

UNICEF works with World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others to ensure that vaccines protect all children – especially those who are the hardest to reach and the most vulnerable.

World Immunization Week runs from 24 – 28 April 2017.

For more information visit: www.unicef.org/immunization

About UNICEF : UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

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