

CEVHAP Releases Report on Hepatitis in Indonesia on World Hepatitis Day

- *Report offers analysis of hepatitis situation in Indonesia, where over 21 million people are infected with viral hepatitis*
- *Eliminating the virus in the island nation by 2030 is achievable through concerted action and by addressing gaps in preventive care, testing and community engagement*

Jakarta, Indonesia (Saturday, 28 July 2018) – A new report released today lays out ways the world’s fourth most populous country – Indonesia – could achieve elimination of viral hepatitis by 2030. Developed by the Coalition to Eradicate Viral Hepatitis in Asia Pacific (CEVHAP), an independent, multidisciplinary non-profit organisation dedicated to hepatitis policy advocacy, the policy report entitled, “Situation analysis of viral hepatitis in Indonesia”, was announced during the 11th Annual World Hepatitis Day, and written on behalf of CEVHAP by Jonathan Scrutton, Dr Jack Wallace, and Dr Suzanne Wait.

Speaking to the key findings from the report, Dr Suzanne Wait explained: Viral hepatitis is a significant public health issue in Indonesia. Currently, around 19 million people are infected with hepatitis B and 2.5 million are infected with hepatitis C, and mortality is increasing from both infections. Indonesia has taken a national response, significantly reducing financial barriers to hepatitis services. However, policy implementation has faced several obstacles – and is further complicated by the nation’s geographic spread over 150,000 islands.”

She concluded: “Health spending needs to better address preventative care, instead of principally providing curative services. In 2014 for example, it was estimated that just 6.6% of total health expenditure went on prevention and public health services. In addition, there is limited availability of specialists to treat viral hepatitis, which is a key concern.”

Further commenting on challenges, but also ways to address viral hepatitis through social engagement and improved testing in Indonesia, Dr Jack Wallace said: “Overall, awareness and access to hepatitis testing remain key concerns in Indonesia. It has been estimated that, at most, 10% of the hepatitis C-infected Indonesian population is aware of their infection. Availability of testing ranges significantly based on regions, and when physical access is not an issue, the price of diagnostic tests acts as a significant barrier to diagnosis. Importantly, the social implications of viral hepatitis need greater attention - more community engagement is needed to overcome stigma, misconceptions about the condition and its impact, and discrimination of those infected.”

According to the report, elimination of viral hepatitis is achievable in Indonesia through concerted action and by addressing key gaps that include:

1. **Information for focused action** – A distinct evidence based national hepatitis strategy, paired with a robust strategic information system to ensure policies to improve prevention and care are based on up-to-date data.

2. **Interventions for impact** – An essential benefits package of viral hepatitis interventions, services, medicines and commodities clearly defined at the national level, to ensure greater equity in quality of care across the country.
3. **Delivering for equity** – Comprehensive interventions aimed at vulnerable populations who may be at higher risk of infection, and existing models of service delivery adapted to meet their needs.
4. **Financing for sustainability** – A mechanism to cover the cost of diagnostic tests for the general population, as well as treatment and longer-term monitoring and care.
5. **Innovation for acceleration** – New innovative approaches to improve the efficiency and quality of services and maximise impact.

Jonathan Scrutton provided an explanation of the methodology and impact: “Based upon an extensive desk-based literature review followed by data collected through twenty-two interviews with key stakeholders in Indonesia, the report provides an extensive understanding of the disease burden in the country. The recommendations presented are tailored specifically to maximise results in Indonesia, but they also offer potential guidance for policymakers throughout the region and around the world.”

Findings from the report unveiled today will be among topics discussed by CEVHAP Co-Chair Professor Rosmawati Mohammed and panelists at the Asian-Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver Single Topic conference (STC) on Hepatitis C on August 3-5 in Kuala Lumpur. The policy report and STC serve to highlight the importance of civil society groups such as CEVHAP who can offer independent perspectives on issues facing countries such as Indonesia, and provide local stakeholders tools to advocate for change to eliminate viral hepatitis.

The report was developed in collaboration with The Health Policy Partnership, an independent health policy research consultancy based in London, UK, and Dr Jack Wallace, a researcher from the Burnet Institute, Melbourne, Australia.

Indonesia has played a leading role in addressing the global health burden of hepatitis. It was a co-sponsor of the WHO resolution that called for the comprehensive prevention of hepatitis by all member states and created the annual World Hepatitis Day in 2010. Nevertheless, the nation continues to be significantly impacted by the disease. By embracing the recommendations of the report and addressing the current gaps, Indonesia may be able attain the goal of eliminating hepatitis by 2030.

World Hepatitis Day is observed every year on July 28th to raise global awareness and encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment. In its 11th iteration, the Day hopes to bring about change that reducing the hepatitis problem, which affects hundreds of millions and kills up to 1.4 million people around the world every year.

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About Viral Hepatitis



Viral hepatitis is inflammation of the liver caused by a virus, and globally kills more than 1.4 million people every year. The main types of viral hepatitis are hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Hepatitis B is transmitted through contact with the blood or other bodily fluids of an infected person, most frequently from mother to child at birth, and approximately 240 million people are living with chronic infections. Hepatitis C is mainly transmitted through blood-to-blood contact such as unsafe injection practices and inadequate sterilisation of medical equipment.

About CEVHAP

The Coalition to Eradicate Viral Hepatitis in Asia Pacific (CEVHAP) is the first organisation of its kind in the region, established as an independent, multidisciplinary body to advocate for public policy reform to reduce the burden of and ultimately eliminate viral hepatitis in Asia Pacific.

Incorporated in October 2010, CEVHAP membership is comprised of many world-renowned hepatitis experts, including people living with the infection, utilising the collective expertise of its members to assist the region through partnership with a broad range of stakeholders, including government bodies in public policy formation and health education.

More recently, CEVHAP has contributed to the development of the WHO's Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis, and the Western Pacific Regional Action Plan for Viral Hepatitis. For more information, please visit www.cevhap.org, or follow CEVHAP on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Weibo.

About The Health Policy Partnership

The Health Policy Partnership is an international consultancy focused on health policy research. They specialize in the development of evidence-based reports, often building consensus across wide groups of stakeholders on an international level. They are a knowledge partner of CEVHAP and have worked with them for several years on previous policy analyses in the Asia Pacific region.