

Find The Missing Millions.

A message to members of the World Hepatitis Alliance on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day, 28 July 2018

Every country in the world has committed to eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030.

With a cure for hepatitis C and effective vaccines and treatment for hepatitis B, this global commitment is achievable. But the clock to 2030 is ticking.

While the tools exist to make elimination a reality within our lifetime, we are missing a crucial piece of the puzzle. Of the 325 million people living with viral hepatitis, more than 290 million remain unaware of their infections. Without finding the undiagnosed and linking them to care, elimination will remain nothing but a dream. And unless there is a massive scale-up in screening, diagnosis and linkage to care, more people will become infected and lives will continue to be lost. This will require a multi-stakeholder and multi-sector commitment.

This is why World Hepatitis Day 2018 is more important than ever. We, the hepatitis community, must come together and encourage policymakers, medical professionals, industry, the media and the general public to raise awareness of viral hepatitis and join the fight to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030.

To support your awareness and advocacy activities, this year we are launching the “Find the Missing Millions” campaign. Find the Missing Millions aims to tackle the main barriers to diagnosis by putting civil society organisations and the affected community at the heart of the solution. The millions of people living with viral hepatitis who remain undiagnosed will not be found unless people living with viral hepatitis are central to the response. Our white paper, ‘Overcoming the barriers to diagnosis of viral hepatitis: the role of civil society and the affected community in finding the missing millions’, will be released on World Hepatitis Day and sets out specific recommendations to ensure civil society are engaged in the response. We, the community, must ensure that we have a seat at the table and a voice in every discussion. By sharing the white paper with your government and highlighting the valuable role people living with viral hepatitis play, we hope to achieve this.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your commitment on World Hepatitis Day. However you plan to celebrate, it is thanks to actions like yours across the globe, no matter how big or small, that progress is made and lives are saved. We look forward to continued collaboration as we work to find the missing millions and towards our collective goal of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030.

Best Wishes,



Michael Ninburg
President, World Hepatitis Alliance