

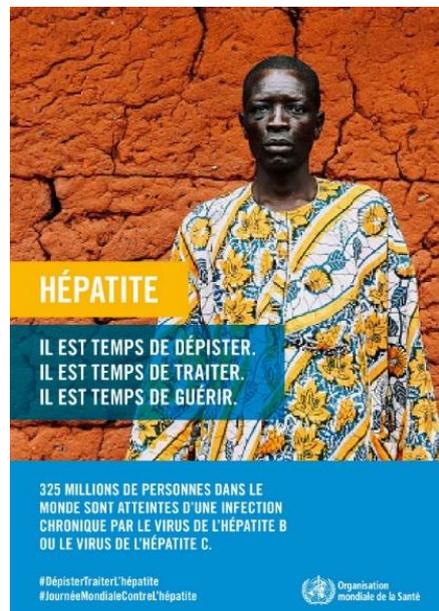
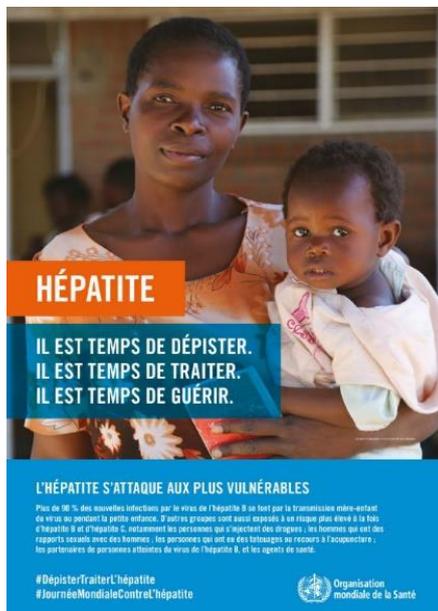
Viral Hepatitis: a major health challenge

Worldwide, 325 million people live with chronic infection with hepatitis B or C, according to the latest WHO report. The low coverage of diagnosis and treatment remains the main challenge at the time of Sustainable Development Goal 3.

Ahead of the upcoming G7, to be held from August 24 to 26 in Biarritz, the World Hepatitis Day (July 28) is an opportunity to strengthen international efforts to fight against viral hepatitis, including hepatitis B and C, the 2 main types among the 5 existing viruses, which are responsible for 96% of the overall mortality related to this disease. In addition, World Hepatitis Day encourages public and private sector engagement to share good practices and strengthen the health systems.

ACCELERATING THE COVERAGE OF DISEASE SCREENING AND TREATMENT FOR TOTAL ELIMINATION

Access to health for all is one of the priorities of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Yet, not everyone benefits from universal coverage. According to the 2015 WHO report, 325 million people live in the world with hepatitis, resulting in 1.34 million deaths. Infected people most often do not have access to early diagnosis and treatment, which could save their lives. By 2030, WHO aims to screen 90 per cent and treat 80 per cent of people with viral hepatitis B and C, thereby strengthening universal health coverage.



WHO posters for the World Hepatitis Day (French versions).*

Low access to early diagnosis by rapid testing and life-saving treatments expose concerned people to the risk of slow progression of the infection to chronic liver disease and cancer.

According to WHO, in 2015, 887,000 people died of hepatitis B infection and about 399,000 people die of hepatitis C worldwide each year.

However, antiviral drugs could cure more than 95% of people infected with the hepatitis C virus. Moreover, the available treatments would stabilize two thirds of patients with hepatitis B, which is highly prevalent in Africa, representing 1% of the population concerned, equivalent to 60 million people. On the African continent, this challenge remains particularly important.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PLAYERS MUST JOIN FORCES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF POPULATIONS IN SOUTHERN COUNTRIES

Raising awareness on the viral hepatitis epidemic, strengthening measures to improve access to early diagnosis and treatment services is therefore essential. The action plan of the Business for Global Health Platform (B4GH), is part of this process: to advance and strengthen the promotion of access to health in developing countries!

*“The B4GH is involved in the global campaign against viral hepatitis. This disease is a major public health problem that can be eradicated anywhere in the world. In Africa, our observations in the field show a lack of knowledge about hepatitis in the general population, in the workplace, and among non-specialized health workers. The supply and demand for testing is limited and the training of health workers is insufficient according to the national programs. Across the continent, the private sector is already playing a key role in supporting comprehensive HIV / AIDS interventions, both in the workplace and in surrounding communities. Nevertheless, the fight against hepatitis is lagging behind. It is urgent to take action. Our goal as part of this global campaign is to launch a global business call to action on viral hepatitis to engage more companies into the support of mass communication, outreach, prevention, testing and prevention programs. medical care. This is the meaning of the pilot operations for awareness raising and integrated rapid testing 'outside the walls', which we consider to deploy through Health Tours in Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon on the occasion of the next World AIDS Day”
declared Erick Maville, Executive Director of Santé en Entreprise (SEE).*

Together, public and private players must join forces through local actions of prevention, awareness raising, diagnosis and disease management to improve the health of the populations in low-income countries.

About Business for Global Health (B4GH)/Entreprises pour la santé mondiale

The Business for Global Health engagement Platform (B4GH) aims to bring together European private companies who are willing to work together to achieve SDG 3 of access to health and well-being for all, by pooling their skills to support collaborative projects in the field in French-speaking Africa and South-East Asia.

Coordinated by Santé en Entreprise (SEE), this initiative is supported by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the European Business Council for Africa and the Mediterranean (EBCAM), the French Council of Investors in Africa (CIAN), LEEM, MEDEF International. I

In this context, SEE has forged strategic partnerships with: Tech Care for All, Université Numérique Francophone Mondiale (UNFM), 17 Juin Media, Africa Observer.

To read the call to action forum signed by a dozen business leaders and published in “Les Echos” on May 16, 2019: <https://www.lesechos.fr/idees-debats/cercle/le-defi-sanitaire-mondial-est-aussi-laffaire-des-entreprises-1019495>

To know more: <https://businessforglobalhealth.com/>

Useful addresses:

Santé en Entreprise (SEE) website : www.santeenentreprise.com/projets/hepatites/

World Hepatitis Alliance video « Find the missing millions »: <https://youtu.be/s7tDz-9q5z4>

Gilead “Kick virus B & C” website: www.kickthevirus.com

WHO website: www.who.int/hepatitis/en/

World Hepatitis Alliance website: www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/

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