

Message from

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WHO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION
on the occasion of
WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

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Every year on 14 June, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day. This year's campaign focuses on blood donation and universal access to safe blood transfusion, as an essential part of achieving universal health coverage.

Transfusion of blood and blood products save millions of lives every year. It can help in the proper management of women suffering from bleeding associated with pregnancy and child birth; children suffering from severe anemia; patients with inherited disorders such as thalassemia; and victims of trauma, emergencies, disasters and accidents.

Although the need for blood is universal, many countries in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region face challenges in making sufficient blood available while also ensuring its quality and safety, especially during humanitarian emergencies. An adequate blood supply that meets the needs of patients can only be ensured through regular donations by voluntary, unpaid blood donors.

World Blood Donor Day serves to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and to raise awareness of the universal need for safe blood in the delivery of health care and the crucial roles that regular, voluntary donations play in achieving the goal of universal health coverage.

The campaign is a call to action to all governments, national health authorities and national blood services. They need to provide adequate resources and put in place systems and infrastructures to increase the collection of blood from voluntary, regular unpaid blood donors; provide quality donor care; promote and implement appropriate clinical use of blood; and set up systems for oversight and surveillance across the blood transfusion supply chain.

WHO is also calling on all countries in the Region to celebrate and thank individuals who donate blood, and to encourage those who have not yet donated blood to start donating.

“Safe blood for all.”

Thank you.