

ASEAN Health Cluster 2 Statement for the 2023 ASEAN Dengue Day Commemoration

Theme: ASEAN's Commitment to Fight Against Dengue

Dengue is one of the most common mosquito-borne viral diseases in the world and has spread far and wide in tropical and sub-tropical regions. It is an illness caused by infection with a virus transmitted by the Aedes mosquito. Aedes-borne diseases, including dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever, and zika, are increasing at an alarming rate due to urbanization, population movement, and climate change.

Dengue is a major cause of morbidity worldwide with an estimated 390 million infections occurring each year. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it is now endemic in more than 100 countries, with Asia representing approximately 70% of the global burden of disease. Affected countries continue to face increasing dengue cases and explosive outbreaks each year resulting in loss of human lives, and strain on health systems. The impact of dengue continues to escalate, requiring more resources, uncompromising commitment, and strong cooperation from all sectors both at the country and regional level.

The observance of ASEAN Dengue Day was endorsed at the 10th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting in 2010 as a key regional advocacy initiative against dengue. It is commemorated every June 15 by all ASEAN Member States (AMS).

This year, the theme for the ASEAN Dengue Day is ***ASEAN's Commitment to Fight Against Dengue***. The objective is to demonstrate the commitment of AMS in the fight against dengue by recognizing the threats and opportunities and working together towards proactive and sustainable solutions. Increasing access to preventive health services such as education, and access to health professionals will help reduce the impact of dengue in communities.

On this ASEAN Dengue Day, we encourage every member state to engage the wider community, beyond the healthcare sector and scientific community, in shaping strategies and actions to mitigate dengue; and leverage the synergies in People-Public-Private partnerships in dengue prevention and control programmes.

Together, we remain committed against the fight against dengue!

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