

## ASEAN Health Cluster 2 Statement for the 2024 ASEAN Dengue Day Commemoration

### Theme: Together Against Dengue: Building a Resilient ASEAN Community

Dengue is one of the most common mosquito-borne viral diseases with an estimated 390 million infections occurring annually, and a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide<sup>1</sup>. The global incidence of dengue has markedly increased over the past two decades, posing a substantial public health challenge. In 2023, over 80 countries and territories across five WHO regions reported an unprecedented increase in dengue cases, with five million infections and more than 5000 related deaths. The global spread of dengue is attributed to various factors, including shifting *Aedes aegypti* distribution, challenges in clinical diagnosis, limited testing capacity, insufficient vector surveillance and control, and challenges in sustaining community activation and coordination<sup>2</sup>. It is therefore critical to elevate and sustain dengue prevention and control efforts to protect public health.

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.

This year, the theme for the ASEAN Dengue Day is ***Together Against Dengue: Building a Resilient ASEAN Community***. The objective is to highlight the importance of strengthening efforts for a more proactive and sustainable action plan to tackle dengue and building a resilient ASEAN community. This is a call for action to a more holistic and integrated approach. We encourage every member state to draw inspiration from the lessons from our long history with dengue to find transformative and sustainable solutions in partnership with the broader community.

On this ASEAN Dengue Day, let us aim to raise awareness, and take the opportunity to recognise milestones in dengue prevention and control within our communities to encourage continuous participation and involvement.

Together, we build a resilient ASEAN community in our fight against dengue!

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/dengue-and-severe-dengue>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON498>