

SPECIAL SESSION



International Snakebite Awareness Day: Challenges and Opportunities to Reduce Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in Odisha, India

In 2018 the Global Snakebite Alliance (GSA) made snakebite awareness and the global snakebite burden a priority of the World Health Organization (WHO) supported by the International Snakebite Awareness Day. The purpose of this initiative is to improve the health system responses to snakebite and snakebite injury to reduce avoidable snakebite deaths.

The Annual Snakebite Awareness (ASA) sessions aim to reduce avoidable snakebite deaths in India by highlighting the challenges and opportunities to reduce snakebite deaths, snakebite care, the role of health facilities, snakebite surveillance systems and the role of research and training capacity. The first international ASA session is in 2019.

To raise awareness of the neglected issue of snakebite, a dedicated programme to host Snakebite Awareness on the Challenges and Opportunities to Reduce Avoidable Snakebite

Deaths in Odisha was developed in partnership with the government of Odisha, India, in 2018.

Snakebite is a public health problem. It is a neglected tropical disease (NTD) which results from the impact of snake bites on approximately 100 million people worldwide. More than 4.5 million people die or are hospitalised in Odisha, India, as a result of snake bites. In 2018, 100,000 people globally died as a result of snake bites at a cost of \$1.7 billion each year. It has been estimated that the burden of premature death as a consequence of snakebite is 100% globally reduced by year 2040 by investment of \$1.2 billion over the next 20 years, provided to build evidence through surveillance and training, research and through effective prevention and control strategies to reduce snakebite morbidity and mortality.

Snakebite is a neglected tropical disease