

Art Competition for World Health Day 2014

Theme: vector-borne diseases

Dear Students

The theme of World Health Day 2014 is vector-borne diseases. The goal of World Health Day 2014 is to raise awareness about the threat posed by vectors – such as mosquitoes, sandflies, bugs, ticks and snails – in transmitting certain diseases and to stimulate families and communities to take action to protect themselves. A core element of the campaign will be to provide communities with information.

The World Health Day 2014 campaign will spotlight some of the most commonly known vectors responsible for transmitting a wide range of diseases. Mosquitoes, for example, not only transmit malaria and dengue, but also lymphatic filariasis, Japanese encephalitis and yellow fever.

What are vectors and vector-borne diseases?

Vectors are organisms that transmit pathogens and parasites from one infected person (or animal) to another. Vector-borne diseases are illnesses caused by these pathogens and parasites in human populations. They are most commonly found in tropical areas and places where access to safe drinking-water and sanitation systems is problematic.

Why it is important to know about them?

Vectors cause many deadly diseases. Millions of people die as a result.

The most deadly vector-borne disease, malaria, caused an estimated 660 000 deaths in 2010. Most of these deaths were among African children. However, the world's fastest growing vector-borne disease is dengue, with a 30-fold increase in disease incidence over the past 50 years. Globalization of trade and travel and environmental challenges such as climate change and urbanization are also affecting the transmission of vector-borne diseases, and causing their appearance in countries where they were previously unknown.

In recent years, renewed commitments from ministries of health, regional and global health initiatives – with the support of foundations, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and the scientific community – have helped to lower the incidence and death rates from some vector-borne diseases.

What is the role of each of us?

We can all contribute to reducing the risk of vector-borne diseases:

- Families living in areas where diseases are transmitted by vectors should know how to protect themselves;
- Travelers should know how to protect themselves from vectors and vector-borne diseases when travelling to countries where these pose a health threat;
- In countries where vector-borne diseases are a public health problem, ministries of health should put in place measures to improve the protection of their populations; and
- In countries where vector-borne diseases are an emerging threat, health authorities should work with environmental and relevant authorities locally and in neighbouring countries to improve integrated surveillance of vectors and to take measures to prevent their proliferation.

Dear Students

You can contribute to the efforts to prevent vector-borne diseases by participating in World Health Day activities. For example you can raise awareness of the causes and ways of transmission of vector-borne diseases. You can also help make people around you aware of how to protect themselves from these diseases.

You may also express these concepts through a contest in drawing and in colour.

Contest participation conditions:

1. Entries may be submitted in any form of drawing or painting by school children aged 8–18
2. Entries can be made on appropriate drawing paper, using any type of colouring.
3. Entries should be sent to the WHO Representative in your country, or to the Director of the Department of International Relations, Ministry of Health, so that they can be forwarded to the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office.
4. The last date for receiving entries is the end of February 2014.
5. Entries shall be judged according to age groups as follows:

8-9, 10–11, 12–13, 14–15 and 16-18.

1. Referees will sit at the Regional Office in Cairo to judge all entries and their verdict shall be final.
2. WHO is not required to return any winning or non-winning entries to their owners.
3. WHO reserves the right to use the submitted artwork in its publications.
4. Every entry must include the form attached to this document, and must show the following information:

- The full name of the Entrant
- Country of residence
- Age
- Full home address
- Name and address of the school (with telephone contact)
- Name of the legal guardian (with telephone contact)

The above information must be legibly written, and preferably typed.

Drawings submitted without the above information will be disregarded.

10. Winners will receive prizes of US\$ 200, US\$ 175, US\$ 150, US\$ 125 and US\$ 100 , as well as Certificates of Merit. An exhibit will be held for winning entries at the Regional Office premises in Cairo.

NOTE FOR SCHOOLS AND ART TEACHERS

Schools are kindly requested to be selective in the entries they submit. While all students are strongly encouraged to take part in the competition in order to raise their awareness about the theme of the World Health Day, the referees will consider promising entries only. Children should be assisted in completing the form legibly and in full.

The form is accessible in the following pdf(s), page 3.

[English Version](#)

[Arabic Version](#)

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