

HEALTH

First global pledge to end cholera by 2030



Health officials from around the world are meeting in France to commit to preventing 90% of cholera deaths by 2030. The disease, which is spread through contaminated water, kills about 100,000 people every year. It is the first time governments, the World Health Organization, aid agencies and donors have made such a pledge. It comes as Yemen continues to fight one of the worst cholera outbreaks on record. Cholera has been spreading in the war-torn country due to deteriorating hygiene and

sanitation conditions and disruptions to the water supply. More than 770,000 people have been infected with the disease, which is easily treatable with the right medical equipment, and 2,000 have died. Many of the victims are children. These huge outbreaks tend to grab the headlines, but there are also frequent outbreaks in so-called cholera "hotspots". **Disease of the poor** Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholera*. It can spread quickly and widely in cramped, dirty conditions. The infection is cheap to treat with rehydration salts, and easy to avoid altogether if people have access to clean water and decent toilet facilities. But about two billion people globally lack access to clean water and are potentially at risk of cholera, according to the World Health Organization. The UN health agency says weak health systems, and outbreaks not being detected early enough also contribute to the rapid spread of outbreaks. Dr Dominique Legros, who heads up the WHO's cholera programme, told the BBC: "We can't keep seeing these huge outbreaks every year. We have the tools at hand to prevent them, so let's use them. If you provide water and sanitation, it's enough to stop the transmission of cholera. We've seen that today in countries like Senegal, where we have been able to stop transmission." Cholera is a disease of the poor, and building basic infrastructure for communities costs money. However, there is no expectation of any major pledges of cash at Tuesday's meeting. **'Badge of shame'** The charity Wateraid estimates it would cost \$40 (£30) per person to provide water, sanitation and hygiene. Its chief executive, Tim Wainwright, says that is "surprisingly affordable". "Looking around the world, the map of cholera outbreaks is essentially the same as a map of poverty and marginalisation. The fact that this preventable disease still sickens 2.9 million people every year and kills 95,000 people is a global badge of shame." The oral cholera vaccine is another important part of the fight against this enduring disease. It only offers protection for up to 3 years. But in situations where outbreaks are highly likely, it can save thousands of lives. Some 900,000 doses of the vaccine are currently being sent to refugee camps in Bangladesh where almost half a million Rohingya Muslim refugees are gathering in squalid conditions after fleeing violence in neighbouring Myanmar, also known as Burma. "The vaccine alone doesn't solve the problem, the water and sanitation is a more long-term solution," said Dr Seth Berkley, chief executive of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations. "In the interim, we need to work to ensure we are doing both." Northern Europe and the US managed to eliminate cholera 150 years ago. Tuesday's pledge aims to, finally, achieve that goal for some of the world's poorest people. *BBC*

From the
Comedians
Quote
Book

When I was a kid, I used to pray every night for a new bicycle. Then I realized that the Lord, in his wisdom, didn't work that way. So I just stole one and asked him to forgive me.

Emo Phillips

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LOCAL NEWS:

*President of the republic and Portuguese ambassador talk bilateral cooperation

The President of the Republic, Francisco "Lu-Olo" Guterres and the Ambassador of Portugal to Timor-Leste last Friday talked on the two countries' bilateral cooperation at the Palace of the President. Speaking to journalists, the Ambassador Manuel Antonio Gonsalves de Jesus said this meeting was to intensify Timor-Leste and Portugal's bilateral cooperation in the field of education, security and justice. The ambassador made the comments after meeting with the president of the republic at the Palace of the President. **Televisaun Timor-Leste, October 20, 2017 language source: Tetun*

***German govt to continue supporting TL:** Minister Moreira Deputy Minister for Transport and Telecommunication, Inacio Moreira said the Government of Germany would continue supporting the country's human resources in the field of maritime administration. Mr. Moreira made the comments after taking in the closing ceremony for the training on maritime administrator, which was held last Friday. He affirmed that the training was aimed at professionalizing the country's maritime administrators of the country. "The Government of Germany will continue supporting us, it provides us fund and hopefully we could prioritize human resource capacity building," he said. **GMN TV, October 21, 2017 language source: Tetun*

*Caretaker government keeps the public administration; early election depends on President's decision

After the Seventh Government's programs rejected by majority of parliament members, currently the caretaker government keeps the public administration function to wait for further decision from President of the Republic. FRETILIN Bench Chief, Francisco Miranda Branco said Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri had declared not to come back to parliament to re-present the government's programs after opposition parties voted against the minority government's programs last Thursday. "The caretaker government will keep the public administration working until January 2018 to wait for President's decision of having early election. The Seventh Government has decided not to come back to parliament, so the caretaker government will function until January next year and let's wait for President of the Republic's decision to have early election as stated in Timor-Leste's constitution," Mr. Branco said at National Parliament last Friday (20/10). **Suara Timor Lorosae, October 23, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

*F-FDTL not to tolerate anyone creating instability, Lu-Olo and Alkatiri has a closed meeting

The Timorese Defense Force (F-FDTL) Commander, Major General Lere Anan Timur calls on every citizen to remain calm amid high political tense because F-FDTL Command will not tolerate anyone who tries to create instability in the country. "Any citizen who uses this opportunity to create instability in the country, F-FDTL Command will not tolerate," Commander Lere said in a press conference at Presidential Palace in Aitarak Laran, Dili last Friday (20/10). Lere said the overall security situation in the country remained intact even though parliament members had voted against government programs on Thursday, so he called on every citizen to remain calm to let the country's leaders discussed about the country and Timorese people's destiny. On the other hand, last Friday, Prime Minister, Mari Alkatiri met with President of the Republic, Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo, but the details of their discussions in the meeting were unknown since the meeting was closed to public. **Suara Timor Lorosae, October 23, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

*ANC and JICA sign MoU for capacity building

Timor-Leste's National Authority of Communication (ANC-TL) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for capacity building in the area of information security. The MoU was signed by President of ANC-TL, Antonio Correia and JICA's Representative Masafumi Nagashi to provide capacity building to Timor-Leste Computer Security Response Team (TL-CSIRT) of ANC-TL. "The training is started on September 2017 until March 2019. The training will be given to government officials and also TL-CSIRT regarding several issues such as monitoring system, PC forensic, penetration test, and management of information security and others," Mr. Correia told Timor Post at his office in Merkadu Lama, Dili last Friday (20/10). **Timor Post, October 23, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

*The Seventh Govt to re-present its programs to parliament

Prime Minister, Mari Alkatiri organized a Council of Ministers meeting last Friday (20/10) after the majority oppositions in parliament voted for motion of no confidence and rejected the Seventh Government's programs on Thursday (18/10). The Spokesperson of the Seventh Government and the State Secretary for Council of Ministers, Matias Boavida said even though the Seventh Government's Programs did not pass in parliament, but according to Timor-Leste's constitution, the government had 30 days to review and revise the programs before re-presenting to parliament. "The government continues working according to the existing law. We have 30 days to adjust and prepare the new programs to respond to parliament's demands and we will present the programs for the second phase in parliament," Mr. Boavida said last Friday. Even though Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri had declared not to present the government's programs again to parliament, Mr. Boavida said there was no need for Prime Minister to go to parliament twice since there was state secretary to represent him. He added the Seventh Government was not yet a caretaker government because Timor-Leste's Constitution allowed the government to present its programs one more time in parliament. **Diario Nacional, October 23, 2017 Language source: Tetun*

*JICA hands over gifts to five students

There were five Timorese students who won awards from "Kanagawa Biennial World Children's Art Exhibition" and on Friday (20/10), the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) handed over to gifts to these students at JICA's Office in Dili. The event of Kanagawa Biennial World Children's Art Exhibition was held in Japan and five Timorese students won in the referred painting competition event with theme "environment" and there were 25,572 students participated in the event from 87 countries. The ceremony of handing over the gifts was participated by the Chief of Environmental Education and Data Management Mr. Faustino Reci Bere, Mr. Nagasumi Naigaishi as representative of JICA in Timor-Leste and the parents of the five students. The five students who won the competition are Monica dos Santos Nunes from Canossa School, Ivonia da Costa Sousa from Meliaut School, Joaquim Pires Silvia, Maria Baixirum and Juliana Amaral from Meliaut. **Independente, October 23, 2017 language source: Tetun*

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