

# Hepatitis: Know it. Confront it.

World Hepatitis Alliance

Viral hepatitis is a potentially fatal disease. Many people experience no symptoms, but if left untreated, it can lead to liver scarring (cirrhosis) and liver cancer.

## The Silent Killer



Viral hepatitis is the **8th** leading cause of death worldwide<sup>1</sup>



It causes the **same number** of deaths per year as HIV/AIDS<sup>1</sup>



**500 million** people are living with viral hepatitis around the world



**One in three** people has been in contact with a hepatitis virus



Viral hepatitis could be **eliminated within our lifetime**. Hepatitis C is **curable**, and hepatitis B is **preventable** with a cheap and effective vaccine

## Deaths in 2010<sup>1</sup>

TB	1,195,990
Malaria	1,169,498
Hepatitis	1,444,554
HIV/AIDS	1,465,368

## Spotlight On: HIV and viral Hepatitis co-infection



Worldwide an estimated **4-5 million** people are HCV/HIV co-infected<sup>2</sup> as they have similar paths of transmission. An estimated 4 million HBV/HIV co-infected<sup>3</sup>

The WHO estimates 36 million people have HIV/AIDS, which would mean **1 in 4** is co-infected with either hepatitis B or C



The hepatitis C virus **progresses faster** in people with HIV/AIDS, making death from liver disease more likely

## Spotlight On: Link with Cancer

Chronic hepatitis B and C are responsible for **75-80%** of liver cancers worldwide<sup>4</sup>



**75-80%**

Liver cancer has a high fatality, and is therefore the **third most common cause** of death from cancer worldwide<sup>5</sup>



# An inexplicable global response

Despite its prevalence, the global response to viral hepatitis is baffling. Viral hepatitis remains a low priority and leaders in global health have consistently ignored it.



Testing is only accessible to all citizens in **30%** countries<sup>6</sup>



Only **a third of** countries have a written national strategy or plan for combating viral hepatitis<sup>6</sup>



**COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES**

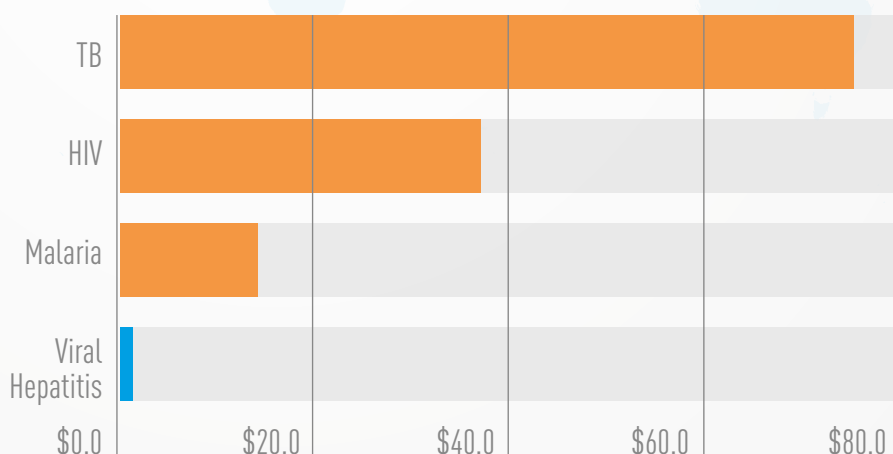
**Viral Hepatitis is not mentioned** in the Millennium Development Goals



The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria **excludes viral hepatitis**

World Hepatitis Day is one of only 7 official days recognised by WHO and yet WHO assigns **only 3 people** to work on it, as opposed to **98** for TB, **59** for HIV/AIDS and **75** for Malaria

Estimated budget **allocation per death** by WHO<sup>7</sup>



## References:

1. Data extracted from The Lancet Global Burden of Disease Study, 2012
2. Lambotin, M et al (2012) 'Challenges for HCV vaccine development in HIV-HCV coinfection', Expert Rev Vaccines, Vol 11(7) pp791-804
3. Sherman, M (2009) 'Strategies for Managing Coinfection with Hepatitis B Virus and HIV' Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine, Vol. 76, Suppl 3, S30-S33
4. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/cancerstats/causes/infectiousagents/hepatitisviruses/hepatitis-viruses-and-cancer> accessed July 2013
5. <http://globocan.iarc.fr/factsheets/cancers/liver.asp>
6. Viral Hepatitis: Global Policy, WHO / World Hepatitis Alliance report, 2010
7. The global hepatitis programme

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