



# Our PLANET, Our HEALTH

World Health Day OBSERVANCE 2022

7 April 2022

## WHO has designated this year's theme to be 'Universal Health Coverage'

The health care community around the world including WHO is striving towards achieving this goal by creating awareness about the fact that health is a human right and everyone should have access to the right care at the right time and at the right place. This right place has been identified as the 'primary health care' dispensing point within a community. Primary health care is first level of interaction between a patient and the health care system; it is where 70 % of simple health needs of people can be met and which has been the critical building block of building healthy communities.

In the midst of a pandemic, a polluted planet, increasing diseases like cancer, asthma, heart disease, on World Health Day 2022, WHO will focus global attention on urgent actions needed to keep humans and the planet healthy and foster a movement to create societies focused on well-being. Our political, social and commercial decisions are driving the climate and health crisis. Over 90% of people breathe unhealthy air resulting from burning of fossil fuels. A heating world is seeing mosquitos spread diseases farther and faster than ever before.

**Why is World Health Day observed?** : World Health Day (WHD) is celebrated on 7 April every year to mark the anniversary of the founding of WHO in 1948. Each year, a theme is selected to highlight a priority area of public health concern in the world. WHO estimates that more than 13 million deaths around the world each year are due to avoidable environmental causes. This includes the climate crisis which is the single biggest health threat facing humanity. The climate crisis is also a health crisis. The COVID 19 Pandemic has as one of its important causal factors, the climate crisis.

**Covid-19 Pandemic and Health:** While the COVID-19 pandemic showed us the healing power of science, it also highlighted the inequities in our world. The pandemic has revealed weaknesses in several areas of societal functioning and underlined the urgency of **creating sustainable well-being**, societies committed to achieving equitable health now and for future generations without breaching of ecological limits and consideration of universal health coverage.

**What do Public Health experts & WHO want to do on this day?** Breaking these cycles of destruction for the planet and human health requires legislative action, corporate reform and individuals to be supported and incentivized to make healthy choices. Through the '**Our planet: Our health campaign**', WHO will urge governments and the public to share stories of steps they are taking to protect the planet and their health and prioritize the well-being societies in the midst of the COVID 19 Pandemic.

**At the International Center for Child & Public Health:** We will be convening our partners to reflect on the World Health Day theme. With the active leadership of the District Collector and the Government launch a series of child health interventions including Paediatric Eye Screening with Aravind Eye Hospital, present a 'Government Impact Report on Nutritional Security of children enrolled in the noon meal scheme', a Status Report on the just concluded 'Wear my Shoes' campaign and .



Shanti Ashram

Gandhian center for development, learning and collaboration



INTERNATIONAL  
CENTER FOR CHILD  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH

36th year initiative of Shanti Ashram