

## World Health Day

### Message



In 1948, the WHO organised the first World Health Assembly which called for the creation of a "World Health Day". In 1950, the first World Health Day was celebrated on April 7. Since then, it is being observed every year on the same day.

Every year a theme is selected and the entire world celebrates the day and year focussing on activities disseminating that subject. Health Day aims at drawing everyone's attention towards important global health issues concerning the humanity.

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed one of the biggest threats to human life worldwide. It has also challenged public health like never before. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating as it has undercut recent health gains, pushed more people into poverty, resulting into food insecurity, and amplified gender, social and health inequities.

This World Health Day, the World Health Organisation calls for action to eliminate health inequities, as a part of year long global campaign to bring people together to build a fairer, healthier world.

The theme for this year is "**Building a fairer, healthier world**".

The campaign highlights WHO's constitutional principle that "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, economic and social conditions".

Immediate and purposeful action to save lives and livelihoods should include extending social protection towards universal health coverage and income support for those, most affected by the pandemic. Now is the time for global solidarity and support, especially with the most vulnerable in our societies, particularly in the emerging and developing world.

As a part of world's largest humanitarian network, I urge all Red Cross branches in the country to extend our cumulative efforts in rebuilding the confidence of communities devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic and other disasters by providing required relief and health care services.

Only together can we overcome the intertwined health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic. We must think about the ways to counter climate change and environmental degradation with ambition and urgency. Only then we can protect the health, livelihood, food security and nutrition of all people, and ensure that our "new normal" is a better one.

The vision of the healthier world is not a distant dream. It can be achieved with evidence-based health education and awareness on health issues. The dream can come true only when organisations like ours through our school and college based counsellors, community level health centres and volunteers carry the information to the remotest part of the country.

I Wish all Red Cross staff and volunteers a very happy World Health day. Stay healthy and stay blessed.

R.K. Jain, I.A.S (Retd)

Secretary General