



## 2021 World Birth Defects Day Webinar: Saving lives of babies with birth defects and improving their quality of life

3 March 2021 @ 14h00 CET / 08h00 EST (90 min)

**Chairs:** Ornella Lincetto (WHO) and Salimah Walani (March of Dimes)

Please click the link to join the webinar: <https://who.zoom.us/j/91042432917> | Password: f#6KMsec

### What is this webinar about?

All children have the right to a healthy start in life. Babies born with birth defects are particularly at risk of death and lifelong disability. Many birth defects can be prevented and treated. But, when a baby is born with a birth defect, receiving the right care as soon as possible gives them the best chance to life and helps them reach their maximum potential. There is a need for strengthening healthcare services to meet the needs of babies born with a birth defect, in particular in low-and-middle income countries of Asia and Africa, where the health care systems are the weakest and the burden of birth defects is the highest. To promote quality of care and universal health coverage for children with birth defects, we must bring to light the human rights perspective and the need for advocacy.

With this webinar, we would like to commemorate World Birth Defects Day to raise awareness about **#ManyBirthdefects1Voice**.

## Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
14h00	<b>Opening remarks and introduction to World Birth Defects Day</b>	<i>Anshu Banerjee</i> , Director, MCA Department, WHO/HQ Geneva <i>Karen Remley</i> , Director, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <i>Salimah Walani</i> , Vice President of Global Programs, March of Dimes, USA <i>Paul Romitti</i> , Chair, International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research
14h15	<b>Saving lives through surveillance and care of small and sick newborns</b>	<i>Lorenzo Botto</i> , Director, International Centre on Birth Defects, USA  <i>Ornella Lincetto</i> , Senior Medical Officer, Newborn Health, MCA Department, WHO/HQ Geneva
14h35	<b>Saving lives with newborn screening and care</b>	<b>Panel with health care providers/organizations</b> Moderator: <i>Salimah Walani</i> , Vice President of Global Programs, March of Dimes, USA  <i>Carmencita Padilla</i> , Professor of Paediatrics and Chancellor of University of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines <i>Tahmina Banu</i> , Director, Chittagong Research Institute for Children Surgery, Bangladesh; Board member and Lead, Congenital Anomaly Group, Global Initiative for Children's Surgery <i>Duminda Samarasinghe</i> , Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children, Sri Lanka and the Founder of Little Hearts <i>Gagan Gupta</i> , Maternal and Newborn Health Specialist, UNICEF, New York
15h00	<b>Saving lives through grassroot activism</b>	<b>Panel with parents and parent advocates</b> Moderator: <i>Salimah Walani</i> , Vice President of Global Programs, March of Dimes  <i>Esther Masika</i> , Founder of The Bold One Out movement, Tunu Africa, Nairobi, Kenya <i>Lieven Bauwens</i> , Managing Director Child-Help International, Belgium
15h15	<b>Questions and answers</b>	<i>Salimah Walani</i> , Vice President of Global Programs, March of Dimes
15h25	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<i>Ornella Lincetto</i> , Senior Medical Officer, Newborn Health, MCA Department, WHO/HQ Geneva