



**THE UNITED NATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DIABETES FEDERATION  
INVITE YOU TO THE SCREENING OF “LIFE FOR A CHILD” AND “LIFEBLOOD”  
TO OBSERVE WORLD DIABETES DAY**

*On 20 December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 61/225. This landmark Resolution recognizes diabetes as a chronic, debilitating and costly disease associated with major complications that pose severe risks for families, countries and the entire world. It designates 14 November, the current World Diabetes Day, as a United Nations Day to be observed every year beginning in 2007.*

*This year's slogan is in line with the campaign's five-year focus (2009-2013) on Diabetes Education and Prevention. For World Diabetes Day 2010, the campaign will build on the achievements of last year by strengthening global awareness of diabetes and empowering people to get active and take control of their health to prevent the disease and its complications.*

**DIABETES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD: KEY MESSAGES & FACTS**

- \*Diabetes kills someone every 10 seconds. Every year, 3.8 million people die from diabetes-related causes. Over 300 million people live with diabetes today. By 2030, that number will jump to half a billion.*
- \*Contrary to popular belief, diabetes is not a disease of the rich and wealthy. It is very much a development issue, and a major barrier to achieving the UN MDGs.*
- \*By 2025, four in five people with diabetes will live in low and middle-income countries. Most deaths and complications related to diabetes in low and middle income countries are in the economically productive age group (30 to 50 years)*
- \*There are 50.8 million people with diabetes in India and 92.4 million in China. Africa will have the highest percentage increase in the number of people with diabetes over the next 20 years.*
- \*80% of people with diabetes in Africa are undiagnosed. Diabetes is one of the biggest stumbling blocks to development, it is not just a public health issue.*
- \*According to World Health Organization estimates, India and China will lose national income to the tune of nearly US\$900 billion between 2005 and 2015 to diabetes and cardiovascular disease.*
- \*75,800 children (aged 1 - 14) get diabetes every year. This number increases annually by 3%. Lack of access to insulin is the main killer in these cases.*

**DIABETES IN EUROPE:**

- \*There are currently nearly 900 million people in Europe living with diabetes and more than 630,000 people are expected to die from diabetes-related causes in 2010.*
- \*8% of Belgian adults (20-79years) have diabetes ie 610,000 people. This will account for 11% of all deaths in the 20-79 age group.*



*Marquerite de Clerck is a Belgian doctor. After a degree in nursing in 1954 and a degree in tropical medicine in Antwerp in 1955 Marguerite took the missionary post of Kitenda: active in a maternity and health centre from 1955 until 1966. From 1974 she started a special consultation programme for non-communicable chronic diseases; diabetes and hypertension. From 2000 Dr. de Clerck has been the co-ordinator of a special program for young patients with diabetes in Kinshasa . She leads the public health programme for diabetes care in the Congo involving three hospitals and 46 health centres .*

UNITED NATIONS



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**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE ON WORLD DIABETES DAY**  
**14 November 2010**

*World Diabetes Day highlights the need for action by governments and their partners to address a chronic, debilitating and costly disease.*

*The World Health Organization predicts that diabetes deaths could double between 2005 and 2030. The poorest countries are hardest-hit, with 80 per cent of cases occurring in low- and middle-income States. More than 220 million people are now affected, and no country is immune.*

*Early diagnosis and effective treatment are critical. It is unacceptable that people with diabetes die because they lack information, treatment or access to life-saving drugs like insulin. Governments must do everything possible to close all gaps so people with diabetes can recover and avoid the damage to their heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys and nerves that is caused by the disease.*

*It is crucial to educate people at risk or those who are suffering from the disease so they can avoid complicating factors such as smoking, and understand how to manage their condition. This will prevent long-term complications which take a heavy toll in human suffering and financial cost.*

*The World Health Organization's Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases identifies ways that individuals, communities and governments can tackle diabetes. In September, the General Assembly will convene a High-level Meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. I urge all the participants to use this event to show the world that they are committed to tackling diabetes and other major chronic diseases.*

*More broadly, promoting a healthy diet and lifestyle can have a positive impact on the environment by decreasing consumption of highly processed foods and increasing walking, cycling and other forms of transportation that are beneficial to both our bodies and our planet.*

*This is a campaign that every individual can also join. On World Diabetes Day, let us all do our part to control the disease and ensure that people who have it receive the care and treatment they need.*

Ban Ki-moon