

# The response to the HCV health crisis among PWID: WHO recommendations and guidance

globalhepatitis  
programme

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World Health  
Organization

# 2010 World Health Assembly Resolution on Viral Hepatitis

- Sponsored by Brazil, Columbia, and Indonesia calling for comprehensive approach to hepatitis prevention and control *including:*
  - Establishment of WHO Global Hepatitis Programme
  - Commemoration of World Hepatitis Day - July 28
  - Accountability to WHA



# Prevention & Control of Viral Hepatitis Infection:

Framework for Global Action

**Available at:**  
[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/GHP\\_framework.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/GHP_framework.pdf)



# Global Hepatitis Framework



**Axis 1: Partnerships, resource mobilization and communication**

Strategic axis 1. Building partnerships, raising awareness and mobilizing resources



**Axis 2: Data for policy and action**

Strategic axis 2. Data for policy and action

**Axis 3: Prevention of virus transmission**



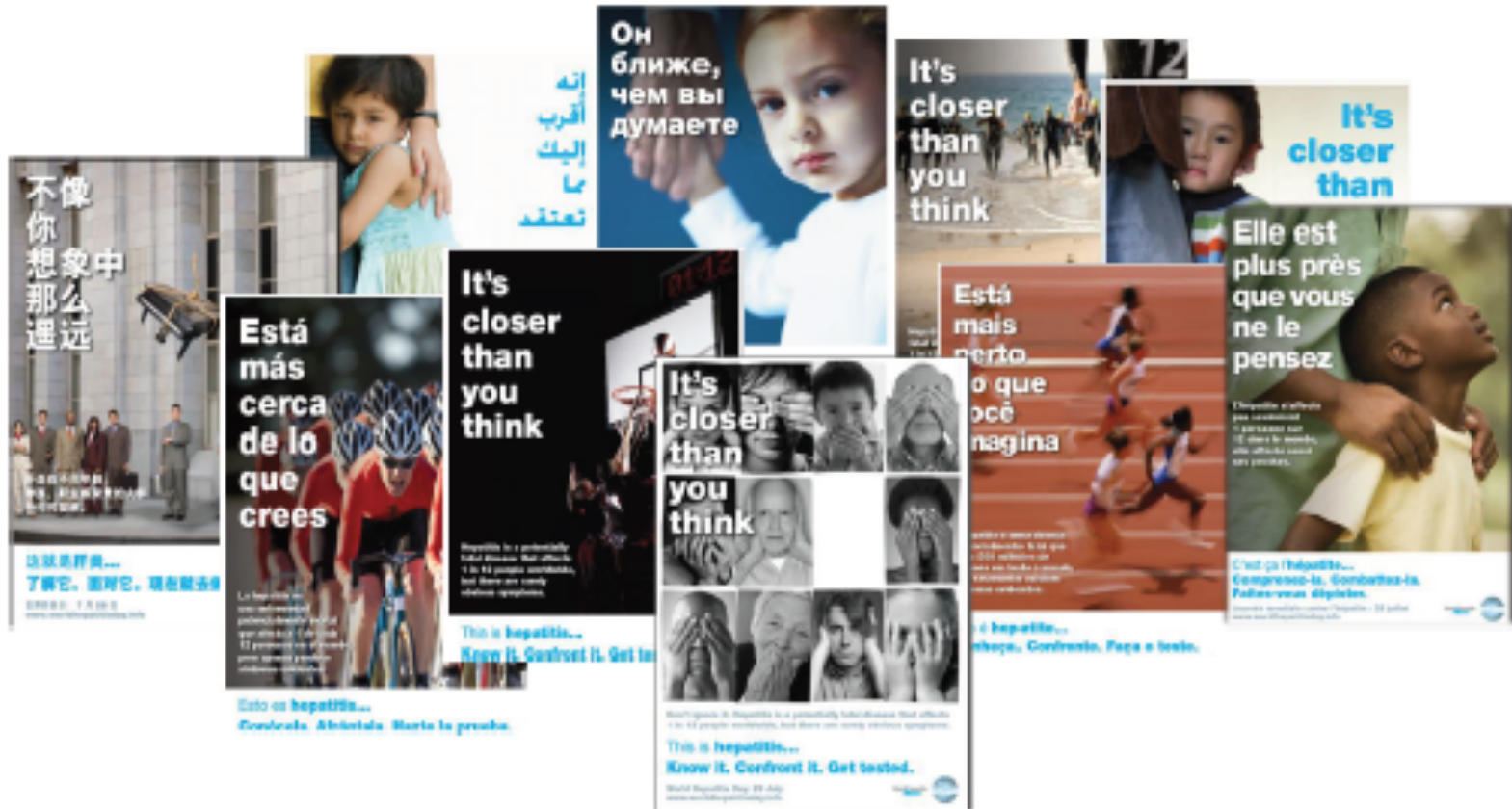
Strategic axis 3. Prevention of transmission



Strategic axis 4. Screening, care and treatment

**Axis 4: Screening, care and treatment**

# World Hepatitis Day 2012 sample posters

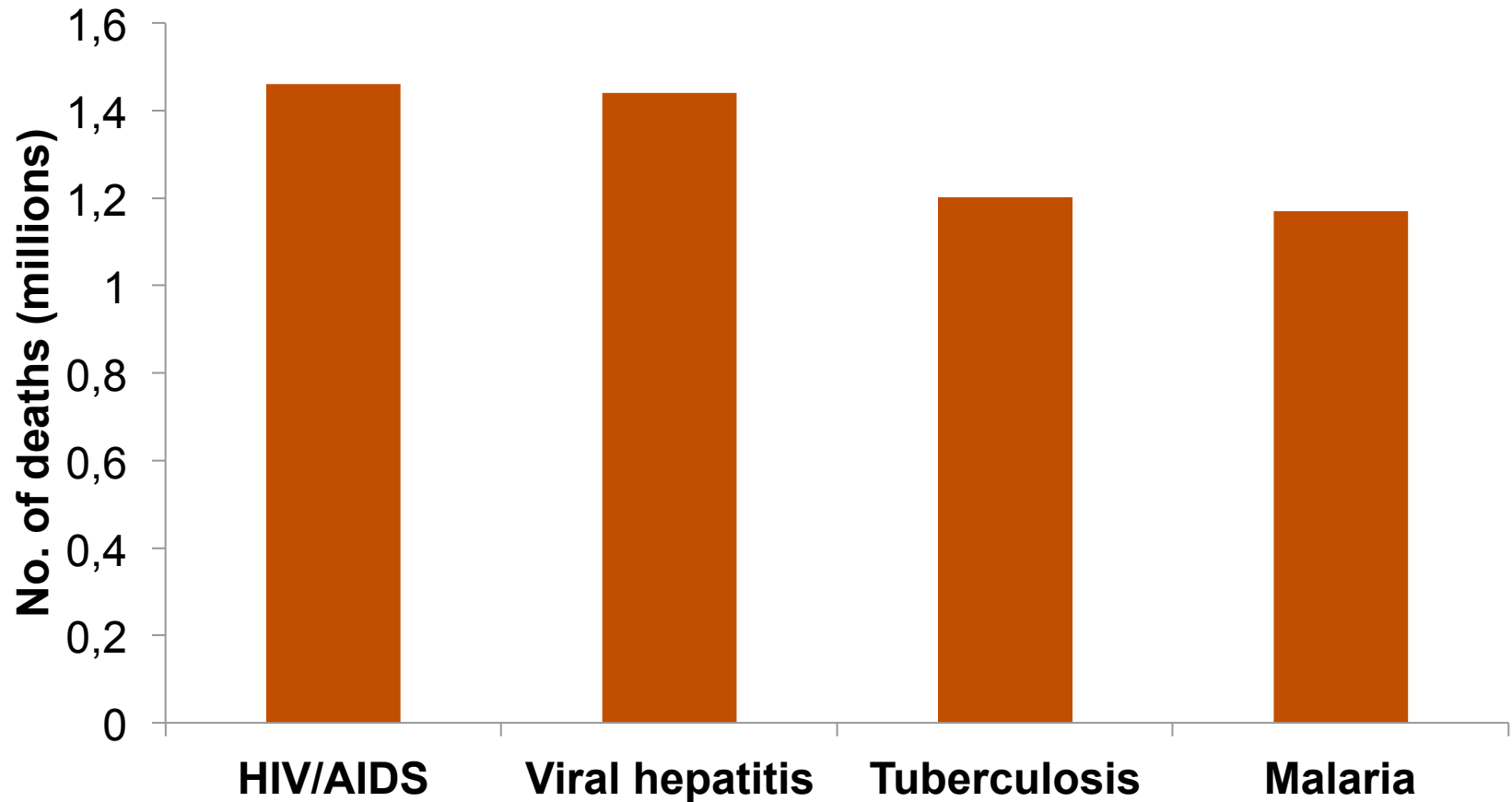


World Health Organization

World Hepatitis Alliance

# Number of deaths/year from selected conditions, 2010\*

\*Global Burden of Disease Study 2010 Lozano et al, Lancet 2012



# WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS guide: A comprehensive package for the prevention and care of HIV among PWID

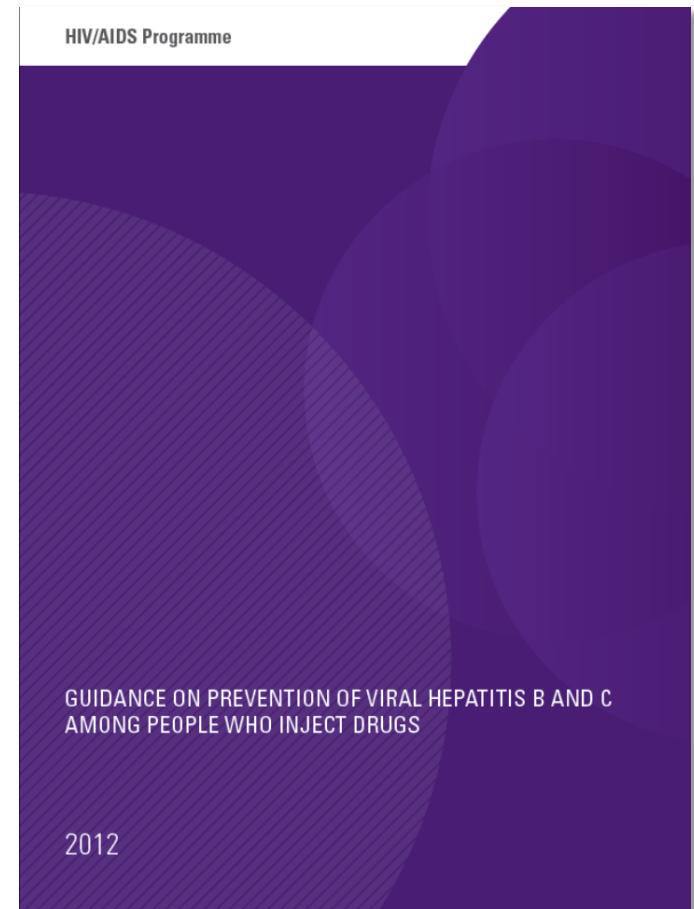
1. Needle and syringe programmes
2. Opioid substitution therapy and other drug dependence treatment
3. HIV testing and counselling
4. Antiretroviral therapy
5. Prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections
6. Condom programmes for PWID and their sexual partners
7. Targeted information, education and communication for PWID and  
8. their sexual partners
9. Vaccination, diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis
10. Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis





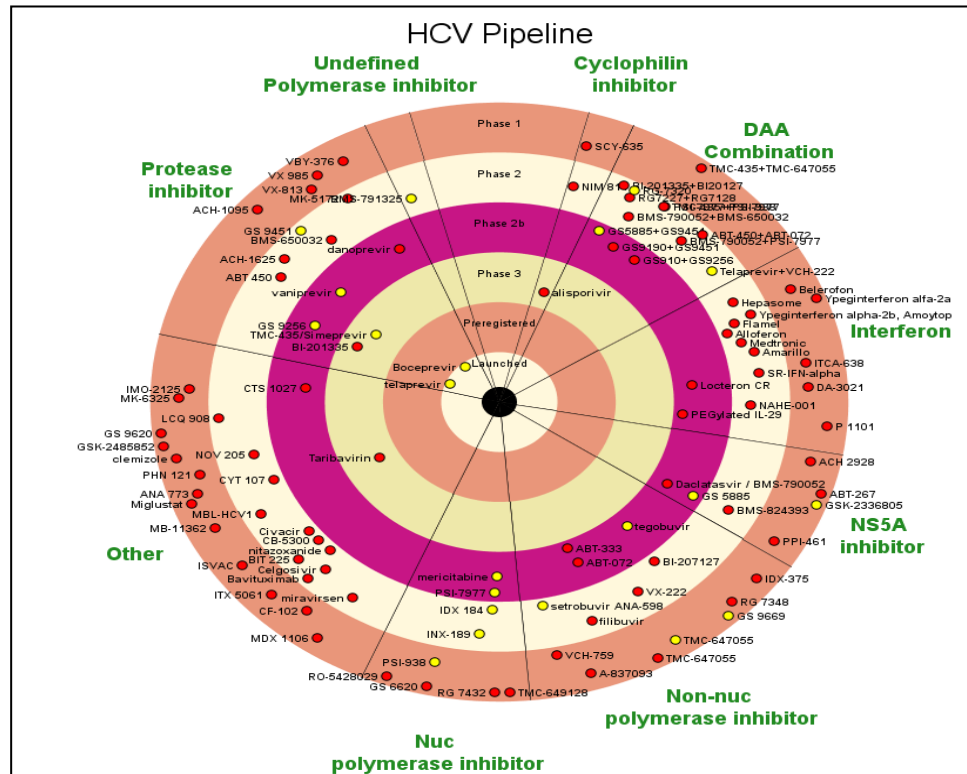
# WHO guidance on prevention of viral hepatitis B and C among people who inject drugs

1. It is suggested to offer people who inject drugs the rapid hepatitis B vaccination regimen.
2. It is suggested to offer people who inject drugs incentives to increase uptake and completion of the hepatitis B vaccine schedule.
3. It is suggested that needle and syringe programs also provide low dead-space syringes for distribution to people who inject drugs.
4. Psychosocial interventions are not suggested for people who inject drugs to reduce the incidence of viral hepatitis.
5. It is suggested to offer peer interventions to people who inject drugs to reduce the incidence of viral hepatitis





# HCV drug-development pipeline



# WHO Hepatitis C treatment guidelines

- Launch April 2014
- First WHO guidelines on hepatitis treatment
- Focus on low- and middle-income countries
- 9 recommendations covering screening, care, and treatment including simeprevir and sofosbuvir
- Recommendations of specific relevance to persons who inject drugs:
  - Screen persons who are part of a population with high HCV prevalence or who have a history of HCV-risk exposure / behaviour
  - All adults and children with chronic HCV infection, including people who inject drugs, should be assessed for antiviral treatment
  - Special considerations for PWID

# Plans for enhanced action

- Hepatitis Partners' meeting
- Enhanced engagement with civil society
- Enhanced engagement with pharmaceutical companies to increase access to hepatitis therapy
- Development of hepatitis B treatment guidelines and hepatitis screening guidelines



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# Thank you

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