World Pneumonia Day 2023: the rising global threat of pneumonia and what we must do about it

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On 12 November 2023 we mark World Pneumonia Day. The day is an opportunity to raise awareness, advocate for and give visibility to pneumonia, the leading infectious cause of death across all age groups globally https://bit.ly/3QjSJuf


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Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs that causes inflammation [1]. A large variety of microorganisms can cause pneumonia, including bacteria, viruses or fungi [1]. Pneumonia is often classified according to the site of acquisition into community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) or hospital-acquired pneumonia (HAP) [1]. Considered as the leading infectious cause of death globally, pneumonia is associated with high morbidity and short- and long-term mortality in all age groups in the world (figure 1) [1]. According to the 2016 Global Burden of Disease (GBD) report [2], there were 68 million episodes of lower respiratory tract infections in 2016, chiefly pneumonia, with ~65 million hospital admissions across all ages. The global incidence of pneumonia in children aged <5 years was 107.7 episodes per 1000 children and in adults aged >70 years was 155.4 episodes per 1000 individuals in the period 1990–2016. The incidence per 1000 children by region was: 107.1 cases in Central Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia; 94.9 cases in Latin America and the Caribbean; 120.4 cases in Southeast Asia, Eastern Asia and Oceania; 133.2 cases in North Africa and the Middle East; and 100.6 cases in sub-Saharan Africa [2]. While the incidence per 1000 individuals by regions was: 171.1 cases in Central Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia; 246.6 cases in Latin America and the Caribbean; 130.8 cases in Southeast Asia, Eastern Asia and Oceania; 246.6 cases in North Africa and the Middle East; and 229.3 cases in sub-Saharan Africa [2].