Birth Defects
An abnormality of body structure or function present since birth

What should we know: Facts

1. In 33 babies have birth defects

2. South-East Asia Region has the second highest prevalence of birth defects in the world

3. Three million babies worldwide die every year, due to birth defects

What are we doing: WHO-SEARO

NBBD-Surveillance
Newborn Birth Defects Database

~10,000 babies with birth defects identified

~1.2 Million total births reported

221 hospitals registered

9 countries registered

Prevent birth defects

- Improve folic acid intake
  - Do not take medicines without prescription

- Folic acid insufficiency causes serious conditions like Neural tube defects

- Ensure fortification of wheat flour with folic acid

- Rubella infection during pregnancy causes serious birth defects

- Get rubella vaccine before pregnancy

- Timely treatment and care can cure or minimise the effects of birth defects in your baby

- Seek early care for birth defects

World Health Organization
Regional Office for South-East Asia

March 3

World Birth Defects Day