

CENTRAL PRESS CONFERENCE 2025

WORLD SEPSIS DAY

5 FACTS X 5 ACTIONS

Friday, September 12, 2025
10:00 - 12:00 CEST
Berlin, Germany

Venue:
The Berlin Global Health Collective
Dorotheenstr. 83, 10117 Berlin,
Germany

Free Livestream on YouTube

VIRCHOW
FOUNDATION



Global
Sepsis
Alliance



CONCEPT NOTE

Why Sepsis?

Sepsis remains one of the leading causes of death, disability, and healthcare costs worldwide. **Affecting 48.9 million people annually, and responsible for nearly 1 in 5 global deaths, Sepsis is a largely invisible global health emergency.** It disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including 20 million children, 26 million women, older adults, and immunocompromised individuals.

According to the latest estimates from the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) and the University of Oxford, in 2021 alone, **Sepsis was linked to 21 million deaths** (as immediate and intermediate cause), including 1.14 million attributable deaths and 3.57 million associated with antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Germany, like many other countries in the EU region, is severely affected by Sepsis, with an estimated **500,000 cases and 140,000 deaths annually**. The latter highlights the urgent need for stronger attention from national health authorities and policymakers to this medical emergency. Furthermore, according to the [MICROBE](#) database, IHME and University of Oxford estimate that, in 2021 alone, **211,096 people died in Germany from Sepsis**, including 8.004 attributable and 33.879 associated with AMR.

Why Germany as a Global Leader in the Fight Against Sepsis?

Germany has historically played a pivotal role in elevating Sepsis on the global health agenda. This includes leadership in the development and advocacy for the adoption of the **2017 World Health Assembly Resolution on Sepsis**, spearheaded by Hermann Gröhe, the former Federal Health Minister.

A significant milestone followed in 2022, when under **Germany's G7 Presidency**, the Health Ministers' Communiqué reaffirmed high-level political commitment to Sepsis, aligning it closely with the antimicrobial resistance agenda.

In 2023, the Central World Sepsis Day Event in Germany, held under the patronage of **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, and Dr. Karl Lauterbach, Federal Minister of Health**, resulted in the adoption of the **Berlin Declaration on Sepsis** by 75 international health organizations as a common roadmap for a robust global Sepsis response.

In 2024, the Global Sepsis Alliance launched the first multi-year **Global Strategy for Sepsis**, aiming to prevent 12 million new Sepsis cases annually and avert 2 million avoidable deaths. This strategy was officially launched at the **German Bundestag**, in collaboration with the Chair of the Global Health Sub-Committee of the German Bundestag, the Virchow Foundation, the UNITE Parliamentarians' Network for Global Health, and Sepsis Stiftung.

As a recognized leader in global health, **Germany is uniquely positioned** to strengthen the global, regional, and national Sepsis response, making the fight against Sepsis the next success story in global health.

About World Sepsis Day

Since 2012, over **54,000 stakeholders from 170 countries** – including policymakers, national health authorities, healthcare providers, researchers, innovators, advocates, Sepsis survivors, affected families, and medical students – have marked **World Sepsis Day (WSD) annually on September 13**.

Initiated by the **Global Sepsis Alliance (GSA)**, the largest professional and advocacy network against Sepsis, WSD campaigns are organized by GSA members and partners across Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America.

These campaigns include scientific conferences, training sessions, media outreach, and launches of national, regional, or global Sepsis literacy and advocacy initiatives.

The 2023 and 2024 WSD campaigns were convened under the patronage of **WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus and the German Federal Minister of Health**. The 2024 WSD marked the historic launch of the 2030 Global Agenda for Sepsis at the German Parliament.

The **2025 World Sepsis Day** aims to build on this momentum with the theme “**5 Facts x 5 Actions**,” focusing on increasing public awareness, political leadership, and strategic investments to catalyze multisectoral engagement and prioritize Sepsis in global health planning.

Objectives of the Event

The Central Press Conference for the 2025 World Sepsis Day will bring together Berlin-based media representatives to:

- Share **5 major facts on Sepsis** as a global health threat and **5 actionable steps** for policymakers and media
- Present **personal stories from children and adults** affected by devastating consequences of Sepsis.
- **Urge policymakers and decision-makers** to increase investments in Sepsis policies and science, healthcare infrastructure, research and innovations, and public awareness campaigns.
- Call for **higher visibility of Sepsis in national and international media** and why we have to keep our governments accountable
- Appeal to media to **regularly report on Sepsis** issues and help sustain public attention beyond World Sepsis Day campaigns.

Co-Organizers of the Event

- Global Sepsis Alliance (GSA)
- Sepsis Stiftung
- Virchow Foundation
- UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health
- German Health Alliance (GHA)
- Team Stop Sepsis
- Swiss Sepsis Program (SSP)

Preliminary AGENDA

10:00 - 11:00

INTERNATIONAL TRACK

10:00 - 10:20

Opening Remarks

Chair: Prof. Dr. Detlev Ganten

Co-Founder, Virchow Foundation | Founding President, World Health Summit

Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

Video Address for 2025 World Sepsis Day

Hon. Dr. Mariam Jashi

CEO Global Sepsis Alliance | Former Chair of the Parliamentary Committee and Deputy Minister of Health of Georgia

Prof. Dr. Andrew Ullman

Chapter Chair for Western Europe, UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health

New Global Estimates on Sepsis

Prof. Mohsen Naghavi (Video Address)

Professor of Health Metrics, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)

10:20 - 10:30

Human Faces of Sepsis

Youssef Kdami

Father of a 2-year-old son with quadruple amputation after Sepsis
(Video Address)

10:30 - 10:45

Questions from the Media

10:45 - 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:00

GERMAN TRACK

11:00 - 11:15

Opening Remarks

Prof. Dr. Konrad Reinhart

President, Sepsis Stiftung | Member of German National Academy of Science Leopoldina

Prof. Dr. H.E. Stefan Kaufmann

Founding Director Emeritus Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin | Member of German National Academy of Science Leopoldina, Germany

Prof. Dr. Peter Suter

Co-founder of the Swiss Sepsis Program (SSP), honorary Professor at the University of Geneva, Board Member of the Sepsis Stiftung

11:15 - 11:35

Human Faces of Sepsis

Mariah McKimbrough

Sepsis Survivor | Executive Director, Sepsis Stiftung

Kerstin Martensen

Founder of Jann-190.dd and Initiator of "Jülich arms itself against Sepsis", after losing her son to sepsis

11:35 - 11:55

Questions from Media

11:55 - 12:00

Summary of Recommendations and Closure

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2025 WORLD SEPSIS DAY MOVEMENT

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