COUNT ME IN!
WORLD ANAESTHESIA DAY 2017
COUNT ME IN!

For World Anaesthesia Day 2017 the WFSA has partnered with our Member Societies across the WFSA Regional Sections to share the “Count Me In!” campaign with anaesthesia providers globally.

WHAT IS THE CAMPAIGN?

Count Me In! is an initiative to unite anaesthesia providers on World Anaesthesia Day and focus on raising awareness and support for scaling-up “human resources for anaesthesia”.

The WFSA’s recently launched Global Anaesthesia Workforce Map, created by surveying anaesthesia providers around the world, highlights the anaesthesia workforce shortage crisis. 70 countries had a total anaesthesia provider density of less than 5 per 100,000 population. Using current population data, more than 136,000 physician anaesthesia providers are needed today to achieve a minimum density of 5 per 100,000 population in all countries.

Without adequate numbers of staff it will be impossible to scale-up anaesthesia provision worldwide, and impossible to ensure access to safe anaesthesia for all patients.

This World Anaesthesia Day the WFSA would like you to count yourself among those providing life saving anaesthesia, and share your support for the scale-up of the anaesthesia workforce.

Join the Count Me In! campaign on 16th October 2017 and use the contents of this toolkit to tell governments, NGOs, and other decision-makers that human resources for anaesthesia are essential to strengthen health systems, and essential to save lives.
WHY CAMPAIGN?

THE GLOBAL CRISIS

The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery (2015) confirmed what we already knew; people, a huge number of people, don’t have access to safe and affordable anaesthesia and are dying as a result. Specifically 16.9 million every year. Many of these 16,900,000 lives could be saved.

This figure is four times higher than the number of people dying annually from malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis combined. It is only 600,000 fewer annual deaths than the number one global killer, cardiovascular diseases. Yet these facts are not well known.

THE SOLUTION

A lack of human resource, including numbers of trained anaesthesia providers, along with a lack of vital anaesthesia equipment in low and middle income countries, contribute to this high number. In many countries anaesthesia and surgery are simply not safe and so national health systems must prioritise anaesthesia and surgery as a core component of universal health coverage (UHC) in order to ensure the needs of the neglected surgical patient are met.

THE FINANCIAL BENEFITS

However, this area of global health is still relatively unknown and is drastically underfunded. While more than 11% of the Global Burden of Disease stems from conditions that could be treated through surgical intervention, almost none of the international aid budgets of governments and NGOs seek to raise awareness or tackle the crisis.

What is also remarkable about the argument for scaling up safe anaesthesia and surgical care, is that it makes such good sense economically. The World Bank’s Disease Control Priorities 3 (2015) report tells us that for every $1 invested, $10 would be returned.
ON THE DAY

There are many ways you can join the Count Me In! campaign on World Anaesthesia Day. Whether you would like to give two minutes to show your support, or spend more time campaigning to promote the scale-up of the anaesthesia workforce worldwide, we are delighted to have your support.

BE COUNTED
To take part, simply print out the banner on the next page and fill out the details (e.g. the number of trained anaesthesia providers working at your hospital/facility AND the population number in your hospital catchment area).

BE SOCIAL
Take a photo with you team with the banner and share it on social media with the following hashtag #CountMeIn! You can also use the following hashtags:

#AnaesthesiaWorkforce #IPracticeAnaesthesia #UnitedForAnaesthesia

BE VOCAL
Challenge other anaesthesia providers in your country or region to take part in the Count Me In! campaign by sharing our Count Me In! promotional materials (available on the WFSA website).

Share your support for #CountMeIn! online
COUNT ME IN!
#WorldAnaesthesiaDay
@WFSAorg

Example hospital,
Liverpool, UK

40 Anaesthetists &
catchment area
population in
Trinities, 150,000
40 Anaesthetists &
COUNT ME IN!

@WFSAorg

#WorldAnaesthesiaDay
Part of the WFSA’s advocacy objectives is to raise awareness of the need for safe anaesthesia as an essential element of safe surgery. We work to highlight the lack of provision and the need to take action, by advocating together with our SAFE-T Network and Consortium and gathering data to “map the gap” in access to safe anaesthesia.

The WFSA’s Global Anaesthesia Workforce Map helps us advocate for a scale-up of anaesthesia workforce, however we want to create similar maps outlining facilities, drugs, and equipment, as well other barriers, to give a more detailed picture of global anaesthesia capacity and what needs to be improved.

It is by mapping the gap that we can provide strong evidence to Ministries of Health and other governmental bodies to ensure more is being done to close the gap.

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOSPITAL/FACILITY**

How many anaesthesiologists work at your facility? How many operating rooms does your facility have? Are they all functional? *What do you need to be able to provide better care to your surgical patients?*

If you are able to answer detailed questions about your facility and have approximately 30 minutes to spare, please complete our Anaesthesia Capacity Survey by [clicking here](#).
READ AND LEARN

There are many interesting publications that have been published which discuss anaesthesia and its role within global health. Two of the most important publications from The Lancet and The World Bank are great starting points to learn more.


Please also take a look at our fact sheets on global health and anaesthesia and global health financing.

SEND A LETTER

Words demonstrating support for the scale-up the anaesthesia workforce and the practice of safe anaesthesia can be extremely impactful. There are many outlets where you can get your voice and opinion heard. Two of the best ways of sharing this information in a meaningful way is to write to a local or international news outlet and/or write to a political representative in your area.

If you are interested in sending a letter, the WFSA can send you examples and templates. To find out more please email comms@wfsahq.org.

ENGAGE YOUR MEMBER SOCIETY

The WFSA works with many of our member societies on advocacy issues throughout the year. However, if you would like to help raise awareness about a certain issue within your country, we have resources available to you. Additionally, we are able to offer member societies additional tools and resources to help them engage with the Ministry of Health in individual countries. For more information please email comms@wfsahq.org.