



WFSA

WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF
ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

**SAFE ANAESTHESIA FOR EVERYBODY -
TODAY**

SAFETY Campaign Toolkit



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Special thanks to our World Anaesthesia Day partners



The SAFETY Advocacy and Campaigning Toolkit has been produced by the WFSA. It is designed for anaesthesiologists and other medical professionals to better understand the global crisis in anaesthesia and surgical care and reflect on how they can help support and improve the global drive to avert the crisis.

Dear Readers,

Many thanks for taking an interest in the WFSA **SAFETY Campaign** and taking the time to read the toolkit.

The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) was founded, with considerable assistance from the World Health Organisation in 1955 with the aim to improve the quality of anaesthesia care across the world. Over the past 60 years we have done much to achieve these aims but appreciate that there is still a long way to go.

There are 5 billion people in the world today who do not have access to essential surgery and safe anaesthesia when needed.

Safety is a vital part of strengthening anaesthesia and surgical care. Access on its own is not enough given the huge impact of unsafe surgery on individuals, communities and societies.

We are reliably informed by economists that for every \$1 we invest in such programmes we can see a return of \$10 as people return to live productive lives within their communities rather than being either a drain on resources, or being shunned by communities (as so frequently happens to mothers who develop fistulae after obstructed labour or children who never have their cleft palate or club foot treated).

With this in mind, the WFSA has launched the **SAFETY Campaign**, advocating for **Safe Anaesthesia For Everybody - Today**. We will be raising awareness of the vital importance of safety in anaesthesia practice and will be seeking to make it easier for anaesthesia providers to have their voices heard.

As this year's **World Anaesthesia Day** approaches, the WFSA has partnered with the European Society of Anaesthesiology (ESA), Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists (NSA), South African Society of Anaesthesiologists (SASA), Bangladesh Society of Anaesthesiologists (BSA), international NGO Lifebox Foundation, and the G4 Alliance, to send this **SAFETY Campaign** 'Toolkit' to many thousands of anaesthesia providers and medical professionals around the world.



It is my hope that you will read the toolkit, learn more about the need to increase the availability of safe anaesthesia and surgical care worldwide, and join our campaign.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'D. Wilkinson'.

David Wilkinson, President WFSA

5 billion people do not have access to safe and affordable anaesthesia and surgical care when needed.

This year The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery 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 people every year. 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.

A lack of training in anaesthesia, along with a lack of vital anaesthesia equipment in low and middle income countries, is a huge part of what is making this number so shockingly high. In many countries anaesthesia and surgery are simply not safe.



We are beginning to see global trends of non-communicable diseases, such as cancer and heart disease, on the rise in low and middle income countries, while we see deaths from infectious diseases fall. When there is no trained anaesthesia provider or no equipment to make sure the patient is safe during relatively simple operations such as a caesarean section, a compound fracture, or a laparotomy, the number of deaths will rise, and keep rising.

Therefore it is essential that we, and our colleagues in the surgical team, advocate for the neglected surgical patient.

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 report tells us that for every \$1 invested, \$10 would be returned.


Why? Because a lack of anaesthesia and surgical provisions are actually costing economies money. In fact \$12.3 trillion will be lost from the economy of low and middle income countries by 2030 without urgent investment in surgical and anaesthesia care.

Creating a healthcare infrastructure for safe anaesthesia would create a positive cycle of events and have a huge impact on society.



This year The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery and the publication of Disease Control Priorities 3 (DCP-3) by The World Bank, showed the world that a focus on safe anaesthesia is a priority.

The UN maintains that healthcare is a vital part of its Sustainable Development agenda going forward. The launch of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes Goal 3 'Good Health: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages'. This goal will simply not be achieved without a scale-up of healthcare in countries around the world. Strengthening healthcare systems must prioritise anaesthesia and surgery as a core component of universal health coverage (UHC).


1 MILLION There is a shortage of more than **1 million** specialist surgeons, anaesthesiologists and obstetricians worldwide

However, scale-up alone will not ensure healthy lives. Access to anaesthesia and surgical care is important, but will not create any meaningful change unless there is access to SAFE anaesthesia and surgical care.

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 problems.

The WFSA, as the world's foremost global alliance of anaesthesiologists is launching the **SAFETY Campaign** to create global awareness about the current crisis. Through our strong network of members, as well as other partners and stakeholders, we can be a strong voice to ensure access to safe anaesthesia and surgical care is a local, national and international priority.



#WorldAnaesthesiaDay

This World Anaesthesia Day, the WFSA along with our partners are asking you to get involved in the SAFETY campaign. Anaesthesiologists around the world are united in what they do and the impact they have on patients, families and communities. On World Anaesthesia Day we ask that you show that unity and pride by posting on social media your location and #worldanaesthesiaday. Tag us @WFSAorg on Twitter and @WFSA - World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists on Facebook.

Safe anaesthesia saves lives, united anaesthesiologists create change.

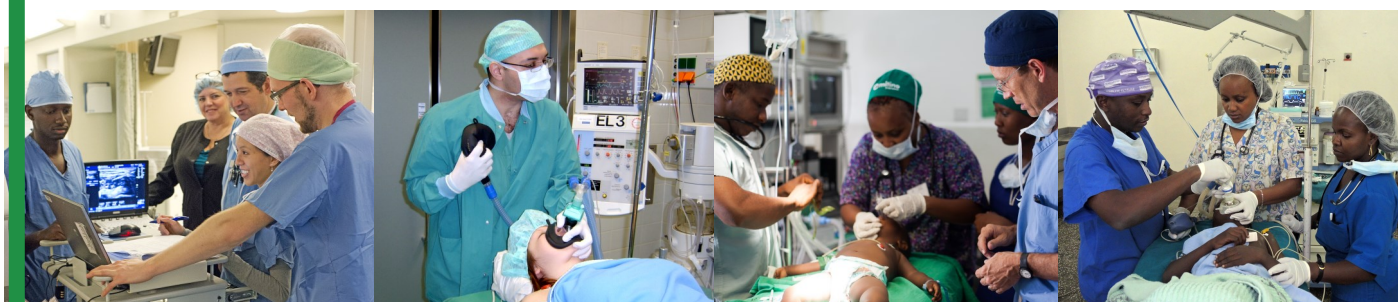


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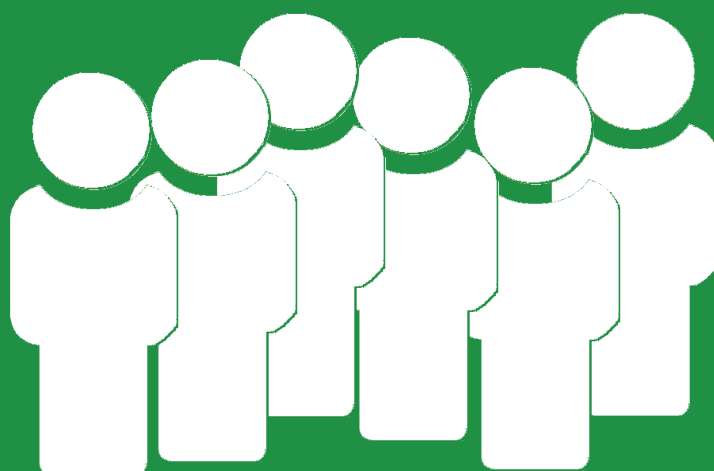
WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF
ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

SAFETY

SAFE ANAESTHESIA FOR EVERYBODY -
TODAY



BECAUSE SAFE ANAESTHESIA SAVES LIVES.



TOGETHER FOR THE NEGLECTED SURGICAL PATIENT.

www.wfsahq.org/advocacy

There are so many ways to become involved with the SAFETY campaign. Whether you would like to give two minutes to show your support, or spend more time campaigning to promote the importance of safe anaesthesia, we would be so happy to see your contribution.

Sign an online petition

Signing an online petition is a quick and easy way to show your support for safe anaesthesia and surgical care.

The WFSA is a founding member organisation of the G4 Alliance, an advocacy-based organization dedicated to building political priority for surgical care as part of the global development agenda. You can sign the G4 petition [here](#).



By signing this petition, you are signalling that you support advocacy efforts that aim to put global surgical, obstetric, trauma and anaesthesia care on the global agenda.

Social Media

Never before in human history have we been this globally connected, and never before have individuals and organisations had the ability to engage, teach, learn and influence change.

This World Anaesthesia Day, we are asking you to do just that. Simply print out the poster on the next page, write why safe anaesthesia is so important and your location (e.g: hospital, city, country)

Take a photo of you and your colleagues. Upload this onto social media with the #WorldAnaesthesiaDay

The WFSA will then collect all of these images together and make an incredible collage of images that show the pride and unity of our members across the world.



@wfsaorg

SAFETY Campaign

**Safe Anaesthesia For Everybody -
Today**

.....

#WorldAnaesthesiaDay

Words demonstrating support for the SAFETY campaign 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.

Example letter to a political representative

Please feel free to edit this letter as necessary and send to your MP, Ministry of Health, Congressman etc. Optional text, or text that may require customization, is in brackets. If you are sending the letter on behalf of an organization, please use your letterhead.

Dear [...],

As a citizen living in [area, country] I am writing to inform you about the global crisis in surgery and anaesthesia. More than 5 billion people do not have access to safe and affordable anaesthesia and surgical care when needed. 16.9 million people are dying every year due to lack of access to safe and affordable anaesthesia and surgical care.

This is a truly global problem. An estimated 70% of operating rooms in sub-Saharan Africa don't have a pulse oximeter, a vital piece of equipment needed to perform safe anaesthesia and surgery. 41% of hospitals in Latin America, and 45% in South Asia face the same crisis. [It is also a problem facing my community.]

I would like to urge you and your fellow decision makers to focus more resources on improving access to safe anaesthesia, including the provision of vital equipment and trained staff. I would also like to encourage you to work to develop policy to ensure that safe anaesthesia is made a priority in discussions on global health.

I believe strongly that the [country] government needs to take a lead in putting forth policy initiatives to avert the current global crisis in anaesthesia and surgical care. I also believe that your position as a political representative makes you able to act as a stronger advocate for these initiatives to come to the forefront of the health agenda.

I look forward to hearing back from you as to what action plans you have come up with to address the [global/country specific] anaesthesia and surgical care crisis.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

[...]

Example letter to a newspaper or journalist

Many publications have a note to the editor section where you can submit a written piece that may be published in the newspaper or website.

Additionally, if you happen to know a journalist or editor it can be very beneficial to send them a short email outlining the issues.



Dear [...],

[Country] needs to do more to promote access to safe anaesthesia and surgical care in hospitals

Globally 5 billion people do not have access to safe and affordable anaesthesia and surgical care when needed.

This is a truly worldwide problem. An estimated 70% of operating rooms in sub-Saharan Africa don't have a pulse oximeter, a vital piece of equipment needed to perform safe anaesthesia and surgery. 41% of hospitals in Latin America, and 45% in South Asia face the same crisis. [It is also a problem facing my community.]

16.9 million lives were lost from conditions needing surgical care in 2010 – more than 4x the number of people who died from HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria combined. Yet just a fraction of global attention and international aid is spent on improving this crisis.

I believe strongly that the [country] government needs to take a lead in putting forth policy initiatives to avert the current [global/country] crisis in anaesthesia and surgical care. I also believe that if more people realise that there is a problem of this scale and more media attention on the subject, will encourage policy change that will increase access to safe anaesthesia, including the provision of vital equipment and trained staff, that will ultimately save lives.

I would appreciate it if you would consider sharing this information with your readership as it is a topic that affects billions of people [including many in [country]].

Yours sincerely,

[...]

Lifebox

The WFSA is a founder and supporter of [Lifebox Foundation](#) an independent charity making surgery and anaesthesia safer around the world. Lifebox works with local teams and global partners to provide essential monitoring equipment and training. These fundamental safety measures support hospitals in countries where anaesthesia mortality is up to 1,000 times more likely than in higher-resource counterparts, and the risk of surgical site infection is more than double.



Do you always have oximeters available when delivering anaesthesia?

If no, are you happy for Lifebox to work with you to provide oximeters and training?

Lifebox pulse oximeters and training have the potential to save countless lives in communities with limited access to monitoring, where life-saving surgery all too quickly becomes life-threatening. If you are an anaesthesia provider and you believe your hospital could

benefit from Lifebox oximeters and training - or if you have all the monitoring you need and know a hospital that doesn't - please contact info@lifebox.org.



Further reading

If you are interested in reading more about anaesthesia and global health, there are a number of high quality publications that explain the subject in detail.

['Global Surgery 2030: evidence and solutions for achieving health, welfare, and economic development,' written by The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery:](#)

[Disease Control Priorities 3: Essential Surgery published for the World Bank:](#)

[Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage](#), WHO Resolution approved at the 68th World Health Assembly on 22nd May 2015

For more information on the SAFETY Campaign and how you can help, please email Niki at comms@wfsahq.org.

[Don't forget to link with us on social media!](#)

www.wfsahq.org | www.wfsablog.org

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