

## PRESS RELEASE

**Embargoed until Tuesday, 14 November 0.01 CET**

### **NEW IDF FIGURES SHOW CONTINUED INCREASE IN DIABETES ACROSS THE GLOBE, REITERATING THE NEED FOR URGENT ACTION**

- 425 million adults are currently living with diabetes.
- IDF launches 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the IDF Diabetes Atlas at event in Brussels to mark World Diabetes Day.
- World Diabetes Day activities around the world highlight the impact of diabetes on women.

**November 14, 2017 Brussels, Belgium** - To mark World Diabetes Day today, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) has released new estimates on the prevalence of diabetes around the world, indicating that 1 in 11 adults are currently living with diabetes, 10 million more than in 2015<sup>1</sup>. Data published in the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the IDF Diabetes Atlas, launched at a high-level stakeholder event in Brussels bringing together representatives from government, the health sector and civil society, confirm that diabetes is one of the largest global health emergencies. More action is required at the national level to reduce the economic and social burden that it causes.

Diabetes, which is associated with a number of debilitating complications affecting the eyes, heart, kidneys, nerves and feet, is set to affect almost 700 million people by 2045. Over 350 million adults are currently at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes, the most prevalent form of the disease. One in two adults with diabetes remain undiagnosed, emphasizing the importance of screening and early diagnosis. Two-thirds of adults with diabetes are of working age and 8 million more adults living with diabetes are over 65 years old.

“Diabetes causes devastating personal suffering and drives families into poverty,” said Dr. Nam Cho, IDF President-Elect and Chair of the IDF Diabetes Atlas committee. “There is urgency for more collective, multi-sectoral action to improve diabetes outcomes and reduce the global burden of diabetes. If we do not act in time to prevent type 2 diabetes and improve management of all types of diabetes, we place the livelihood of future generations at risk.”

Diabetes has a disproportionate impact on women, the focus of IDF and its affiliated members in over 160 countries this World Diabetes Day. Over 200 million women are currently living with diabetes and many face multiple barriers in accessing cost-effective diabetes prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and care, particularly in developing countries. Women with diabetes are more likely to be poor and have less resources, face discrimination and have to survive in hostile social environments. Diabetes is also a serious and neglected threat to the health of mother and child, affecting one in six births and linked to complications during and after delivery.

“Women and girls are key agents in the adoption of healthy lifestyles to prevent the further rise of diabetes and so it is important that they are given affordable and equitable access to the medicines, technologies, education and information they require to achieve optimal diabetes outcomes and strengthen their capacity to promote healthy behaviours,” said Dr. Shaukat Sadikot, IDF President.

IDF welcomes all the international commitments on diabetes that have been made over the last few years and acknowledges that some advances have taken place. However, it is clear that urgent action is still required to achieve the targets agreed by UN member states in 2013 and 2015. These include a

0% increase in diabetes and obesity prevalence; 80% access to essential medicines and devices by 2025; and a 30% reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2030. To this end, IDF has launched a call to action for the 2018 High Level Meeting on NCDs, calling on governments to renew their commitments and increase their efforts towards achieving the agreed targets.

"IDF is calling for all nations affected by the diabetes pandemic to work towards the full implementation of the commitments that have been made. We have both the knowledge and the expertise to create a brighter future for generations to come," said Dr Sadikot.

### **More information**

- IDF Diabetes Atlas 8<sup>th</sup> edition: [www.diabetesatlas.org](http://www.diabetesatlas.org)
- World Diabetes Day: [www.worlddiabetesday.org](http://www.worlddiabetesday.org)
- IDF Call to Action to the 2018 UN High Level Meeting on NCDs: <https://www.idf.org/our-activities/advocacy-awareness/campaigns/HLM2018>

### **CONTACTS**

Lorenzo Piemonte  
IDF Communications Manager  
+32-2-5431624  
[lorenzo.piemonte@idf.org](mailto:lorenzo.piemonte@idf.org)

### **About World Diabetes Day**

World Diabetes Day (WDD) is celebrated annually on November 14. Led by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), World Diabetes Day was created in 1991 by IDF and the World Health Organization in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes. World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations Day in 2006 with the passage of United Nation Resolution 61/225. IDF is pleased to acknowledge the support of the following partners for World Diabetes Day 2017: AstraZeneca, Becton Dickinson, Boehringer Ingelheim, Lilly Diabetes, Merck, MSD, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Sanofi Diabetes, SunLife Financial. [www.worlddiabetesday.org](http://www.worlddiabetesday.org)

### **About the International Diabetes Federation**

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) is an umbrella organisation of over 230 national diabetes associations in 165 countries and territories. It represents the interests of the growing number of people with diabetes and those at risk. The Federation has been leading the global diabetes community since 1950. The Federation's activities aim to influence policy, increase public awareness and encourage health improvement, promote the exchange of high-quality information about diabetes, and provide education for people with diabetes and their healthcare providers. IDF is associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations and is in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). [www.idf.org](http://www.idf.org).

### **About the IDF Diabetes Atlas**

The IDF Diabetes Atlas is the authoritative source of evidence for health professionals, academics and policy-makers on the burden of diabetes. Global, regional and national estimates are produced for prevalence of diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), undiagnosed diabetes, mortality, healthcare expenditure, hyperglycaemia in pregnancy, and type 1 diabetes in children and adolescents. The IDF Diabetes Atlas, published since 2000, is available in print and as free digital download. The Atlas website includes an interactive and dynamic map, scientific publications and detailed data.

### **References:**

1. International Diabetes Federation. IDF Diabetes Atlas, 8th Edition. Brussels, Belgium: International Diabetes Federation, 2017. Available at: [www.diabetesatlas.org](http://www.diabetesatlas.org)