CHILDHOOD HEARING LOSS

ACT NOW, HERE’S HOW!

32 MILLION CHILDREN LIVE WITH DISABLING HEARING LOSS

INFECTIONS

31%

60%

OF CHILDHOOD HEARING LOSS IS PREVENTABLE

OTOTHERS*

8%

OTOTOXIC MEDICINES

4%

BIRTH-RELATED CAUSES

Complications at birth

Prematurity

Low birth weight

Mumps

Rubella

Meningitis

Measles

Ear infections

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CONSEQUENCES, IF NOT ADDRESSED

Delayed language development

Academic underachievement

Social isolation

Higher risk of injuries

Increased poverty

STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION AND CARE

Strengthen maternal and child healthcare programmes, including immunization and organizations of people with hearing loss

Train healthcare professionals in hearing care

Regulate and monitor use of ototoxic medicines and environmental noise

Implement infant and school-based hearing screening

Make accessible hearing devices and communication therapies

Raise awareness to promote hearing care and reduce stigma

*including prenatal causes, such as substance abuse and metabolic diseases

CHILDHOOD HEARING LOSS

www.who.int/pbd/deafness/world-hearing-day/en