

Global Launch and Worldwide events to commemorate the **World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2021**

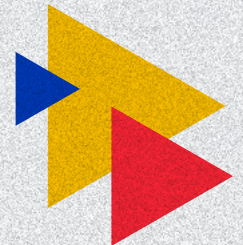


This year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2021, commemorated on April 28th, 2021, focused on leveraging the elements of an OSH system as set out in the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187).

Since emerging as a global crisis in early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has had profound impacts everywhere. The pandemic has touched nearly every aspect of the world of work, from the risk of transmission of the virus in workplaces, to occupational safety and health (OSH) risks that have emerged as a result of measures to mitigate the spread of the virus. Shifts to new forms of working arrangements, such as the widespread reliance on teleworking, have, for example, presented many opportunities for workers but also posed potential OSH risks, including psychosocial risks, impacts on mental health and violence in particular.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led governments, employers, workers and the general population to face unprecedented challenges in relation to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the many effects it has had on the world of work. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work focused on strategies to strengthen national occupational safety and health (OSH) systems in order to build resilience, in order to face crises now and in the future, drawing on lessons learned and experiences from the world of work.

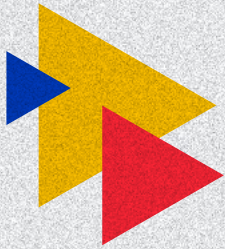
On the 28 April 2021, a Global Virtual Launch event was held, hosted by the ILO headquarters in Geneva. The global launch was attended by several thousand attendees on Zoom and was viewed on YouTube and other platforms by over 5000 people.



“World Day for Safety and Health at Work on the 28th of April, reminds us of why we must have strong occupational safety and health systems and why they must be properly integrated into national crisis responses.”

**Guy Ryder,
ILO Director-General**

See full video
statement [here](#)



“Nobody should die while doing their job, but in the past year thousands of people in health care and other industries have lost their lives to COVID-19 in the line of duty, many more have died from other preventable occupational diseases and injuries.”

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

See full video statement [here](#)

In conjunction with the webinar, the ILO also produced resources for the World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2021, which were subsequently translated into over 10 languages and used by partners around the world. These materials include the following:

- **Posters:** [Blue Poster](#) and a [Yellow Poster](#)
- **Report:** [Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises – Invest now in resilient occupational safety and health systems](#)
- **Report Summary:** [Leaflet for Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises – Invest now in resilient occupational safety and health systems](#)
- **PowerPoint:** [PPT Presentation of World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2021](#)
- **Q&A Video with Dr. Manal Azzi:** [Occupational safety and health and COVID-19: what lessons have we learned?](#)
- **Podcast:** [Why we need to invest now in resilient occupational safety and health systems](#)

The panel of speakers



GUY RYDER
ILO Director-General



OWEN TUDOR
ITUC Deputy General Secretary



ROBERTO SUAREZ SANTOS
Secretary-General,
International Organisation of Employers



DR. TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS
Director General,
World Health Organization



PROF. DR. VEDAT BILGIN
Minister of Labour
and Social Security,
Turkey



MARTY WALSH
Secretary of Labour,
United States



GISÈLE RANAMPY
Minister of Labour, Employment,
Social Services and Social Law,
Madagascar



JEANNETTE GALANIS
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy,
Mine Safety and Health Administration,
Department of Labour,
United States



SILAS SNG
Commissioner for Workplace Safety
and Health, Ministry of Manpower,
Singapore



MARIA FERNANDA CAMPOS
Inspector-General, Authority for
Working Conditions,
Portugal



SELÇUK YASAR
Head of International
Collaboration Unit, DGOSH,
Turkey



KRIS DE MEESTER
Senior Adviser,
Belgium Federation
of Employers



MAUREEN ONYIA
Head of Occupational Health &
Safety, Nigeria Labour Congress,
Nigeria



JERSON RAZAFIMANANTSOA
Director General of Labour and Social,
Madagascar



**Moderator
FEMI OKE**

Co-Hosts



VERA PAQUETE-PERDIGÃO
Director, Governance

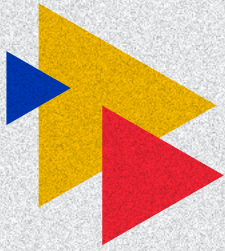


JOAQUIM PINTADO NUNES
LABADMIN/OSH Branch Chief



MANAL AZZI
Senior OSH Specialist

Watch the full Global Launch webinar event [here](#).



A distinguished set of panellists representing **government agencies, workers, employers** and **OSH professionals** discussed how COVID-19 had tested the resilience of occupational safety and health systems.

They discussed how the risks to workers extended far beyond the threat of acquiring the virus, with impacts on mental health as well as increased pressure on OSH systems, as businesses faced the strained resources from the economic impact of the pandemic. The experts noted strategies, lessons learned and examples from their countries and sectors, while also bringing to light areas for future investment and improvement.

The Global Launch Webinar



► Worldwide events to commemorate the World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2021

The World Day received global press and social media coverage from around the world.

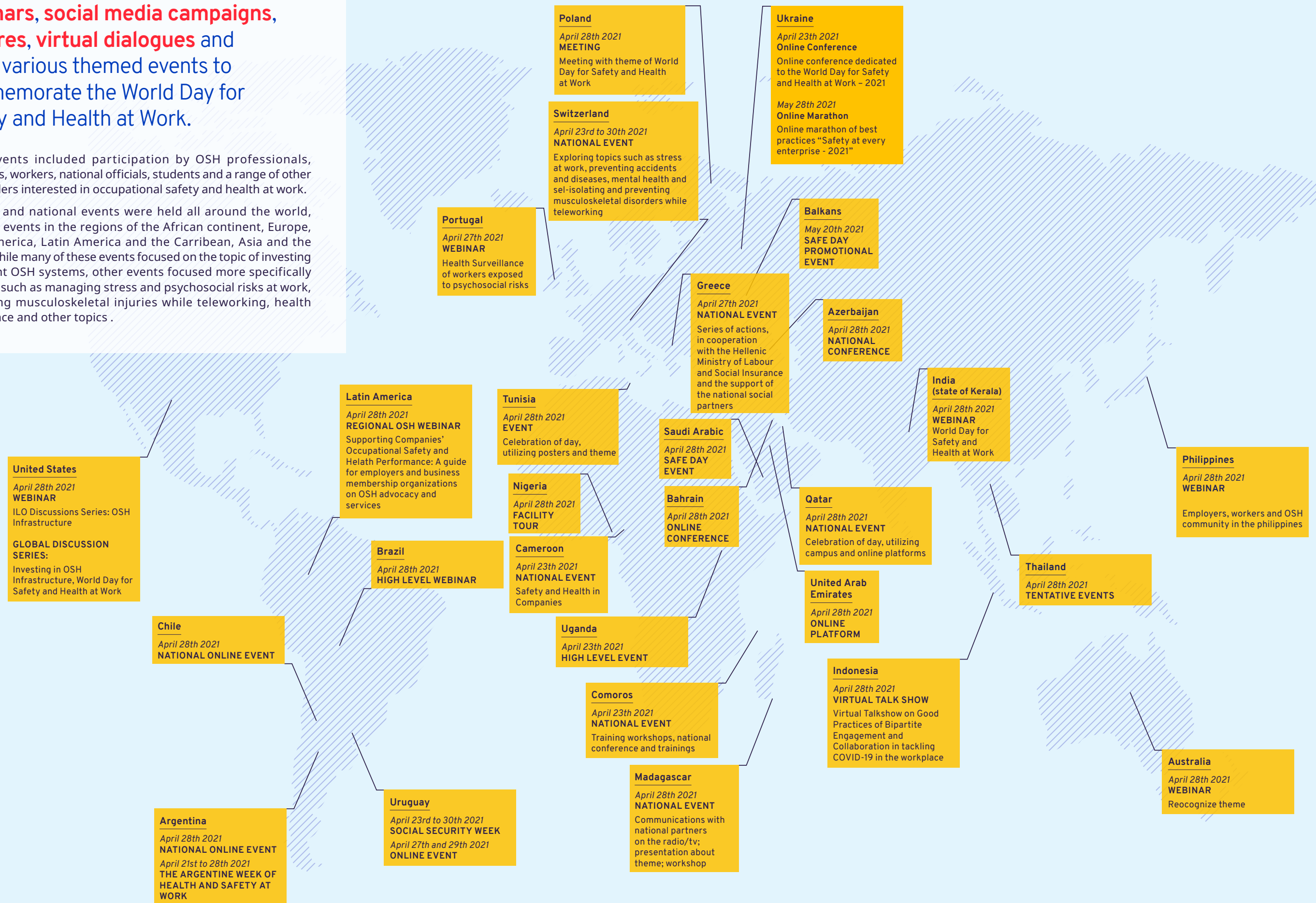
The Global Launch of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, as well as the day itself and other commemorative events, received press coverage and social media exposure around the world.

In the Press and Social Media

ILO constituents around the world organized **regional and national webinars, social media campaigns, lectures, virtual dialogues** and other various themed events to commemorate the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

These events included participation by OSH professionals, employers, workers, national officials, students and a range of other stakeholders interested in occupational safety and health at work.

Regional and national events were held all around the world, including events in the regions of the African continent, Europe, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. While many of these events focused on the topic of investing in resilient OSH systems, other events focused more specifically on topics such as managing stress and psychosocial risks at work, preventing musculoskeletal injuries while teleworking, health surveillance and other topics.



Regional and national events on the occasion of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2021

Country/ Region	Organizer	Type of Event	Dates
Algeria	Ministry of Labour	Event	28-Apr
Argentina	National	National online event	21-Apr
Argentina	Superintendency of Occupational Risks	The Argentine Week of Health and Safety at Work	April 21 to 28
Australia	Safe Work Australia	Reocognize theme	28-Apr
Azerbaijan	Ministry of Labour	National Conference	28-Apr
Bahrain	Fives Services Gulf	Online conference (around 60 attendees); might have ILO country office rep speak	28-Apr-21
Balkans	Balkan OSH Network	Safe Day promotional event	20-May
Bangkok	United Nations	Tentative events	
Brazil (regional)	ILO	High level webinar	28-Apr
Cameroon	National Activities	Safety and Health in Companies	28-Apr
Chile	Ministry of Labour and ILO	National online event	28-Apr
Comoros	Réseau des Jeunes Entrepreneurs - Plateforme Nationale (RJE - PN)	Training workshops, national conference and trainings	21 - 28 April 2021
Fiji	ILO Suva	Webinar	28-Apr
Greece	Hellenic Institute for Occupational Health and Safety	Series of actions, in cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance and the support of the national social partners	28-Apr-21
India (state of Kerala)	Department of Factories and Boilers, Government of Kerala	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	28-Apr
Indonesia	ILO CO	Virtual Talkshow on Good Practices of Bipartite Engagement and Collaboration in tackling COVID-19 in the workplace	

► **Events worldwide to commemorate the World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2021**

Indonesia	ILO Jakarta & Indonesia Journalist Association	OSH Media Briefing	27-Apr
Indonesia	ILO Jakarta & Ministry of Manpower	Webinar on Pandemic and OSH Investment Improvement	29-Apr
Latin America	ACTEMP, Barbados and Honduras	Supporting Companies' Occupational Safety and Health Performance: A guide for employers and business membership organizations on OSH advocacy and services	28-Apr
Latin America	ILO Country Offices/Regional Activities		
Madagascar	Vision Zero Fund and Ministry of Labour	Communications with national partners on the radio/tv; presentation about theme; workshop	28-Apr-21
Nigeria	NGN Group and National Forefront Newspaper	Facility tour	
Philippines	Department of social welfare and development	Webinar championing occupational safety and health in the workplace during pandemics	28-Apr
Philippines	Occupational Safety and Health Center and Department of Labor and Employment	Free webinar via Zoom in celebration of the World Day	28-Apr
Philippines	Philippines OSH Centre	Webinar on the guidelines on ventilation for workplaces and public transport to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19	27-Apr
Poland	Labour Protection Council of the Polish Parliament	Meeting with theme of World Day for Safety and Health at Work	28-Apr
Portugal	Portuguese Society of Occupational Medicine	Health Surveillance of workers exposed to psychosocial risks	27-Apr
Qatar	Ministry of Public Health	Webinar	29-Apr
Qatar	Qatar University, Health and Safety Section	Celebration of day, utilizing campus and online platforms	28-Apr-21
Saudi Arabia	Satorp Company,	Safe Day Event	
Switzerland	Accuray International Sarl	OSH Awareness Week	26 - 30 April 2021
Thailand	Department of Labour Protection and Welfare	Event	28-Apr
Thailand	UN ESCAP	Commemoration of World Day for Safety and health at work	28-Apr
Tunisia	Bouchamaoui Industries	Celebration of day, utilizing posters and theme	

► Events worldwide to commemorate the World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2021

Uganda	Ministry of Labour	Safe Day Event	
Uganda	Ministry of Labour	High level event	23-Apr-21
Ukraine	European Society of Occupational Safety and Health, "Occupational Safety and Health" Magazine	Online marathon of best practices "Safety at every enterprise - 2021"	28-Apr
Ukraine	ILO Office for Central and Eastern Europe		
Ukraine	State Labour Service of Ukraine, "Occupational Safety and Health" Magazine with the support of the EU-ILO Project	Online conference dedicated to the World Day for Safety and Health at Work – 2021	23-Apr
United Arab Emirates	HSE Policies and Planning Section in Safety, Risk, Regulation and Planning Department in Roads and Transport Authority in Dubai	Online platform	28-Apr-21
United States	ILO Office for the United States	Global Discussion Series: Investing in OSH Infrastructure, World Day for Safety and Health at Work	28 April (10-11 am EDT)
United States	ILO USA	ILO Discussions Series: OSH Infrastructure	28-Apr
Uruguay	National	Online events	27-Apr
Uruguay	National	Onlineevent	29-Apr
Uruguay		Social Security Week	April 23 to 30
World Day for Safety and Health at Work United Nations	United Nations Publication	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Media coverage