**Mental disorders affect one in four people**

One in four people in the world will be affected by mental or neurological disorders at some point in their lives. Around 450 million people currently suffer from such conditions.

Treatments are available, but nearly two-thirds of people with a known mental disorder never seek help from a health professional. Stigma, discrimination and neglect prevent care and treatment from reaching people with mental disorders, says the World Health Organization (WHO).

In a new report entitled "New Understanding, New Hope" WHO urges governments to provide solutions for mental health that are already available and affordable. "Mental illness is not a personal failure. In fact, if there is failure, it is in the way we have responded to people with mental disorders," said Director-General of WHO, on releasing the report.

The report says some mental disorders can be prevented; most mental and behavioural disorders can be successfully treated; and that much of this prevention, cure and treatment is affordable. Despite the chronic and long-term nature of some mental disorders, with the proper treatment, people suffering from mental disorders can live productive lives and be a vital part of their communities.