



Newsletter N° 1 - May 2004

World Health Organization

Global Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI)

[CEH indicators](#)

[HECA](#)

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About this newsletter

CEHI newsletter has been set up to engage partners with the Global Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI). It aims to provide up-to-date information on relevant global, regional and national indicator activities. This newsletter does not intend to cover general Children's Environmental Health issues. We welcome your feedback and input.

To sign up or for further information, please contact us at:

cehindicators@who.int or visit: <http://www.who.int/ceh/indicators/en/>

Readers interested in receiving regular updates on children's environmental health may subscribe to:

- HECANET ([Healthy Environments for Children Alliance](#)) newsletter
- CEHN Community ([Children's Environmental Health Network](#)) newsletter
- INCHES ([International Research and Information Network on Children's Health Environment and Safety](#)) newsletter

New CEH web site

The new WHO web site on children's environmental health was launched at the [3rd International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment](#) in London on 31st March 2004.

This new site is a comprehensive resource designed to provide public health specialists, academics, nongovernmental organizations and all others interested in children's environmental health, with the latest information available. This includes updated information on risks, publications, capacity-building and research which will be continually supplemented and updated. The web site also highlights two new topics: indicators and national profiles with updates on regional pilots.

We welcome any feedback.

Please visit: <http://www.who.int/ceh>

Or contact us: cehindicators@who.int

New publication

WHO recently launched the publication: "[Making a difference: indicators to improve children's environmental health](#)" in Cape Town, South Africa, during a Technical Consultation on Children's Environmental Health.

It forms the theoretical basis for a series of regional indicator pilots, conducted under the Global Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Indicators, launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The MEME (Multiple Exposures Multiple Effects) model provides the underlying concept for the development and reporting of children's environmental health indicators. The publication also includes a summary for policymakers and a set of 45 examples of indicator profiles.

Publication link:

<http://www.who.int/ceh/publications/ceh1590599/en/>

Pilot projects

Regional pilots are already underway in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and North America. Two regional pilots will be highlighted in each newsletter; news on other pilots is available on the [CEH web site](#) in the indicators section (regional pilots).

Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)

The CEC, in partnership with the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States, and the International Joint Commission (IJC) Health Professionals Task Force, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), is undertaking the development of indicators of children's health and the environment in North America. The final report is due for publication in the fall of 2004.

Related CEC link: [Children's Health and the Environment in North America](#)

Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA)

CEHA is monitoring indicators on healthy environments for children and assessing environmental health risk factors affecting children in Iran, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, Tunisia and Yemen. Oman and Tunisia have already embarked on collecting existing CEH information and will be conducting an environmental health survey developed by CEHA.

Related CEHA link: [Healthy Environments for Children Initiative](#)

For more information on regional pilots:

<http://www.who.int/ceh/indicators/indregpilots/en/>

HELI

Health and Environment Linkages Initiative

Making the link between environmental hazards and health is fundamental to the development of good public health, environment and economic policy. A WHO/UNEP initiative, launched at WSSD and funded by Health Canada and Environment Canada, aims to promote methods for decision-makers to reduce adverse environmental impacts on human health and to consider health and environment linkages as an integrated part of strategic decisions on economic and development policies.

In addition to pilots in Uganda and Thailand, HELI is currently setting up a pilot study in Jordan, in collaboration with CEHA (Centre for Environmental Health Activities). The study aims to assess household water security and health linkages in order to generate evidence for guidance to Member States on the minimum domestic water requirements for health.

The policy implications of this work include setting service targets by water authorities and deriving health sensitive water pricing policies. This project aims to ensure that surveillance and indicator data such as those collected by CEHI, is translated effectively into better policy and practice.

For more information: HELI@who.int

Other news

EPA web site

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recently launched its web site: Office of Children's Health Protection, a gateway to information about environmental risks to children.

<http://www.epa.gov/children/>

White Paper

The White Paper "From Theory to Action: Implementing the WSSD Global Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Indicators" has received valuable feedback and contributions from numerous partners, including the Governments of Canada, Italy, and the United States, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the International Society of Doctors for the Environment, the Healthy Environments for Children Alliance, the Health and Environment Linkages Initiative, and the Environmental Health Project.

We are planning to make the White Paper available for the [Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Budapest](#), 23-25 June, 2004 and we welcome additional feedback by the beginning of May in order to help us achieve this goal.

For more information please contact us:

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