



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

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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
- ISDE ([International Society of Doctors for the Environment, ISDE Latin America](#)) Newsletter

World Health Day 2005 (7th April 2005)

"Making every mother and child count"

On the 7th April 2005 hundreds of organizations around the globe hosted events to help raise awareness of the unacceptable level of illness, suffering and death among mothers and children, and to stimulate collective responsibility and action to ensure life and good health. The overall message for World Health Day 2005 is one of hope for all mothers and children. The future will be healthier and more productive for all societies if we act now to make every mother and child count.

WHO's Department of the Protection of the Human Environment (PHE) has contributed a fact sheet to World Health Day 2005: ***"The Environment and Health for Children and their Mothers"*** to help raise awareness about the impact that the environment has on mothers and children health. This fact sheet is available in English, French, Spanish and will be available in Chinese, Russian and Arabic in the near future. The ***World Health Report 2005 - Make Every Mother and Child Count*** was also launched during World Health Day 2005.

To access the Fact Sheet, please visit

<http://www.who.int/ceh/publications/factsheets/fs284/en/>

To access the World Health Report 2005, please visit:

<http://www.who.int/whr/2005/en/index.html>

To access the statistical annex of the World Health Report 2005 (includes indicators related to reproductive, maternal and newborn health-Annex Tables 7 and 8) visit: <http://www.who.int/whr/2005/annexes-en.pdf>

CEHI & HELI in Jordan

Expert Consultation on the Health and Environmental Linkages Initiative (HELI) and Children's Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI), 28-31st March 2005 Amman, Jordan

The consultation assembled more than 45 experts from 15 countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) to review and discuss the outcomes and the lessons learned from implementing the Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI) in Jordan and the Children's Environmental Health Indicators Initiative (CEHI) pilot projects in Oman and Tunisia. Participants reviewed the tools and methodologies presented, as well as the results and lessons learned from their implementation through national application within the EMR countries.

The expert consultation noted outstanding breakthroughs: the demonstration of quantifiable linkages between increased water consumption and incidence of diarrhoea; a well defined process for identifying, quantifying and valuing the environment and health benefits of various policy options; and the utilization of a combination of risk assessment and economic valuation tools to facilitate decision-making.

The consultation drew plans for further development for incorporating environment and health considerations into policy-making at the national and regional level. The Regional Initiative on Tools for Effective Decision Making on Health and the Environment was developed at the consultation with the following components: 1) Consolidation of ongoing work and additional applications to refine the tools and processes 2) Capacity building through documentation, training, and dissemination. The consultation developed a regional consultation process to facilitate capacity building and dissemination with three milestones: a regional expert consultation within a year, a regional training workshop within two years, and an international conference within three years.

For further information, please visit <http://www.who.int/ceh> or the upcoming website: <http://www.who.int/heli>

Related publication

"Health & Environment: Tools for Effective Decision-Making"

The WHO-UNEP Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI) launched this publication on 15 March 2005 at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Amman, Jordan.

HELI is a global effort by WHO and UNEP to promote and facilitate action in developing countries to reduce environmental threats to human health, in support of sustainable development objectives. HELI supports a more coherent approach to valuing the services that ecosystems provide to human health as part of decision-making processes. Activities include:

To access the publication, please visit: http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/heli/en/

To access CEHI information, please visit: <http://www.who.int/ceh/indicators/en/>

Indicator 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).

Eastern Mediterranean Regional (EMR) Pilot

- ***Pilot Application of CEHI in Tunisia and Oman***

The application of CEHI in EMRO has been coordinated by WHO/EMRO Centre for Environment and Health Activities (CEHA). Application of CEHI has been conducted in Oman and Tunisia, and assessments in Yemen and Pakistan are underway.

Initial results were presented by Oman and Tunisia at the Expert Consultation on the Health and Environment Linkages Initiative (HELI) and the Children's Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI) in Amman, Jordan (28-31st March 2005) and Final National Reports on the State of Children Environmental Health will be completed by the end of May 2005.

CEHI's approach in EMR pilot application was designed to: 1) assess the availability, accuracy and reliability of information on children's environmental health 2) prioritize environmental health risk factors affecting children within the home environment and its immediate surroundings, and 3) refine the indicators in view of regional conditions and the promotion of their use as a tool for decision-making and contribute to the building of national and regional capacities in monitoring the status of children's environmental health.

CEHI's approach within the EMRO pilot involved:

- a. Producing a preliminary report on children environmental health indicators using existing sources of information to provide a qualitative and numerical account on children environmental health in the countries;
- b. Conducting population-based surveys to assess children exposure to environmental risk factors and the corresponding health outcomes. The population-based assessment tool (i.e. household survey) developed by the WHO/EMRO Centre for Environment and Health Activities (CEHA) and used in Tunisia and Oman consists of three modules: i) Roster of People and Health ii) Housing Quality Module examining shelter and housing quality; indoor air quality; outdoor air quality; physical safety; and chemical safety iii) Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Module examining household water security (quantity and quality); sanitation; personal and food hygiene;
- c. Generating a national report on the state of children's environmental health.

For further information on regional indicator pilots, please see <http://www.who.int/ceh/indicators/indregpilots/en/>

European Regional (EURO) Pilot

- ***WHO-EURO Pilot: Developing Children's Environmental Health Indicators to monitor CEHAPE***

The WHO European Centre for Environment and Health is developing children's environmental health indicators to monitor the implementation of the Children's Environmental Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE), endorsed by the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Budapest, June 2004. These indicators focus on the key action items of CEHAPE's four Regional Priority Goals (RPGs), which aim to reduce health effects in children arising from inadequate water and sanitation conditions, injuries arising from traffic as well as other unintentional injuries, promoting healthy mobility and physical activity, decrease respiratory disorders related to air pollution, and protect children from adverse health effects by physico-chemical environment.

At a WHO meeting in February 2005, experts reviewed the proposed indicators and selected a preliminary set of core indicators covering the key action items of the CEHAPE RPGs. A set of priority indicators is currently undergoing a screening process for policy relevance vis-à-vis the European Union and domestic policies and regulations. For a sub-set of indicators that were not previously tested, feasibility for implementation will be tested in 11 countries. Based on the results, a 'core' set of CEH indicators will be recommended for implementation in the piloting European countries by October 2005. It is envisaged that the indicators to be developed will serve as the basis for an evaluation report on CEHAPE implementation for the mid-term review at the intergovernmental meeting in 2007.

For further information please visit:

- WHO/Europe Environment and Health Information System programme: <http://www.euro.who.int/EHindicators>
- Implementing the Environment & Health Information System-EHNIS: <http://www.enhis.net>
- Overview of indicators, methodology & availability: <http://www.enhis.net/info/index.htm>
- Fourth Ministerial Conference in Budapest: <http://www.euro.who.int/budapest2004>

Chemical Safety Recommendations

The International Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) Forum IV recognized that protecting the health of children and ensuring that they live in safe environments will allow them to reach their full potential. Specific recommendations for action were approved by over 500 participants representing governments, NGOs and industry.

These recommendations called for WHO to take and/or motivate action on a number of different issues. WHO was called to take action on these, and recommendations made by the IFCS on Children and Chemical Safety. WHO has initiated a number of activities, some of which are to motivate and promote harmonized data collection, research, legislation and regulations, and to consider the use of **indicators** of children's environmental health.

For further information on the IFCS, please visit <http://www.who.int/ifcs/champions/index.htm#> or <http://www.who.int/ceh>

Tsunami in Asia

What about the children?

The immediate response to the tsunami crisis contributed significantly to avoid major epidemics and was considered as a success from a public health perspective. However, a number of major environmental health (EH) risks are still faced by children in the many coastal areas affected by the tsunami. The first type of risks is related to the disaster emergency shelter rebuilding phase. Whereas, the second type relates to the plans and specifications for reconstruction of shelters, settlements, roads, beaches and coastal businesses. These plans are being defined and will largely determine future risks for these populations.

Despite its immediate and tragic impact, this crisis provides an opportunity for "rebuilding better" in a way that can prevent most of the major EH issues that needed to be addressed prior to the tsunami, e.g. road accidents due to very poor road design and transport systems. Although it remains a challenge to mainstream this concern within the reconstruction priorities and agenda, mutual reinforcing actions should emerge from such preventive approaches.

For further information on the Health Action in Crisis: http://www.who.int/hac/crises/international/asia_tsunami/en/

For further information on selected health indicators from the Health Action in Crisis website, please visit: <http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/tools/en/Selected%20Health%20Indicators%20.pdf>