PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM THE ENVIRONMENT

Each year 1.7 million deaths of children under 5 are linked to the environment.

- **570,000** deaths due to respiratory infections, including pneumonia
- **360,000** deaths due to diarrhoea
- **270,000** deaths due to neonatal conditions, including prematurity
- **200,000** deaths due to unintentional injuries, such as burns, drowning
- **200,000** deaths due to malaria

Reducing environmental risks could prevent a quarter of these deaths.
Environmental risks include air pollution, chemicals, poor water, sanitation and hygiene.

CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED BY:
- Air pollution
- Inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene
- Built environment
- Second-hand smoke
- Climate change
- Hazardous wastes
- UV radiation
- Hazardous chemicals

CHILDREN ARE ALSO AFFECTED BY EMERGING THREATS SUCH AS:
- Persistent organic pollutants / endocrine-disrupting chemicals
- e-Waste

Minimising these risks are key to protecting children and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
Environmental exposures start in the womb, and can have effects throughout life.
Air Pollution: An unseen threat to children’s health.

Each year, air pollution causes 570,000 deaths in children under 5. This includes indoor, outdoor and second-hand smoke.

In children, air pollution can:
- Stunt brain development
- Reduce lung function & trigger asthma

It can also set the stage for problems later in life from:
- Stroke
- Cardiovascular disease
- Cancers
- Chronic respiratory illnesses

Nearly a million children die from pneumonia each year. Half of those are linked to air pollution.