



A DYNAMIC GLOBAL ALLIANCE

The social and political movement for Healthy Environments for Children is supported by a growing alliance of development agencies.

The alliance will tap into the spirit of the private sector and the capacities of the voluntary sector.

Members of the alliance will harmonize efforts to protect children's health and safeguard the environment. They will back a global movement that is visible and vibrant, and encourage political commitments so that governments and other key actors expand and scale up effective actions.

Most importantly, the alliance will empower communities, particularly of poor people, to galvanize action to improve their domestic environments, and to ensure that their children have access to basic social services including health care, clean water, sanitation and adequate nutrition.

TARGET FOR ACTION



EXISTING INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE



Taking stock of existing and reliable knowledge and building on current activities to empower partners to take effective action.

National and global partners focus on surveillance to generate information for evidence-based action, and to monitor progress. Links between environmental problems, health and development policies are identified. Information is widely disseminated at all levels, and areas for potential action are recognized.

Country authorities and development agencies establish global alert systems that prioritize surveillance and monitoring, and dissemination of information.

Governments, NGOs and civil society groups ensure that information is shared and used between communities and authorities.

Families and children have the information they need to understand their environmental risks and take appropriate action at the household level.



FOCUSED RESEARCH

Supplement existing knowledge with research.

Cooperation among academics to investigate the linkages between poverty, child vulnerabilities, environmental risks and strategies for development.

Industry helps to develop effective, safe and inexpensive medicines, insecticides, pesticides and alternative approaches to pest control, water purifiers, sanitation products, and energy alternatives.

Coalitions of agencies, NGOs and institutes pursue country research for improving interventions and the performance of professionals working on environmental risks for child survival.

Partners collaborate closely to ensure that research is focused, relevant and productive.



ACTION FOR HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILDREN



Governments, supported by the alliance, promote the role of environmental protection in child survival and respond to the most pressing environmental challenges which threaten child health.

Multisectoral coalitions of partners build consensus on child environmental health indicators, an important factor in sound policy-making.

Public health staff, NGOs, private practitioners and local healers work together with families to implement actions that respond to children's needs.

Health and education authorities, professionals and skilled workers build on existing tools and bring services closer to the homes and schools, so that millions of children's lives can be saved.

Local health authorities coordinate existing efforts and initiatives that address children's environmental health.

Global partners consider how their development and investment policies can create healthy places for children and reduce environmental risks to health.

CLEAR POLICIES



Governments address environmental and health policies and legislation in an integrated and multisectoral manner, and rank healthy environments for children higher up the public health agenda.

Governments link health and environmental policies to their sustainable development plans and allocate sufficient resources.

The global alliance supports governments and authorities to assess and act on environmental risks.

Community members and technical experts participate in and enhance policy-making.

Children and young people are given a voice in their countries and international arenas.



ACTION THROUGH THE HEALTH AND OTHER SECTORS



A strong alliance across many sectors – health, environment, energy, water, housing, education, agriculture, transport and finance – improves responses to the health protection of children and cultivates local participation.

Country authorities and partners train professionals – from teachers and health workers to paediatricians and family doctors – on environmental and health topics.

Communities and NGOs push for better services through synchronized preventive action via health centres, schools, religious groups, agricultural co-operatives and women's groups.

The private sector complements public utilities, provides needed commodities and helps apply new technologies.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Local leaders, village councils and NGOs build community awareness on environmental health and an understanding of how to manage essential resources such as water and fuel. They mobilize support for environmental care activities such as protecting water sources, building latrines and planting trees.

NGOs, health workers, teachers and religious leaders promote hygiene and influence healthy behaviours at home and in the community.

Local authorities and NGOs increase attention to family-level activities in children's environmental projects. Simple, low cost options allow mothers to minimize environmental risks to their children.

Civil society groups help increase the demand for public services, influence local policy and hold local governments accountable for the services they provide.