Healthy Environments for Children

AN ALLIANCE TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF LIFE

WHO
Environmental threats cause up to one third of the Global Disease Burden

- Over 40% of this burden on children under 5
Children are the most vulnerable to environmental threats

- More exposed to dangerous conditions
- Consume more in proportion to weight
- Body systems more vulnerable than adults

More than 5 million children die every year from environmentally-related diseases
Poor Children Suffer the Most

- Poor nutrition, housing, sanitation; second hand tobacco smoke; limited access to health and social services ....
- ... associated with poverty and social inequity...
- ... women face special risks...
- ... pronounced regional variations (arsenic, lead, etc)
Risks to Children’s Health

IN SOIL

IN WATER

IN AIR

IN FOOD

IN SOIL

Unsafe Places:

Unhealthy Behaviours:
Priority Risks

- Household water security
- Hygiene and sanitation
- Air pollution
- Disease vectors
- Chemical hazards
- Unintentional Injuries
Healthy Environments for Children are at the Heart of Sustainable Development

- Improve children’s well-being
- Contribute to poverty reduction
- achievement of Millenium Development Goals
Healthy Environments for Children

Now a Priority

- Commitment exists and momentum is growing
- Cost-effective tools and strategies are available
- Research and experience will improve approaches
Responding to the Crisis

- Presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development
- Support and commitment from a variety of stakeholders
Why a Global Alliance?

- Encourage political commitment
- Build on complementary strengths of sectors, stakeholders and partners at local, national and global levels
- Expand and scale up action
- Need to ensure intersectoral action and community participation
Need for an Intersectoral Approach to Tackle Multiple Risks

- In the settings where children live, grow, learn and play
- In homes, neighbourhoods, and schools
Existing Knowledge

Targeted Action

Clear Policies

Intersectoral Action

Focused Research

Healthy Places
Happy Faces

Targeted Action

Existing Knowledge
Methods of Work...

Healthy Environments for Children
Approach to Achieving Goals

- Agree on a well-defined mission, and jointly defined objectives
- Build credibility in a limited number of areas, initially
- Broaden scope in later phases
Mission and Objectives

- Ensuring effective advocacy and awareness raising to create healthy environments for children
- Providing knowledge, information exchange and expertise for effective policies and action
- Supporting communities in creating and maintaining healthy environments for children
- Monitoring and evaluating progress
Advocacy and Awareness Raising

- Convene high level meetings with stakeholder groups
- Disseminate advocacy material
- Mobilize public and political support
- Develop campaigns for awareness raising
Information Exchange

- Take stock of ongoing efforts
- Consolidate and disseminate knowledge through databases
- Provide fora to exchange information, approaches, and lessons learned
- Establish web site

Area 2
Supporting Communities

- Facilitate the initiation of national movements and local alliances
- Assist countries in the development of pilot projects
- Support capacity building activities at community level
Monitoring and evaluating progress

- Develop a core set of indicators
- Facilitate indicator use for decision making
- Monitor advocacy and implementation efforts

Area 4
Potential Roles of Alliance Members

- Provide technical, developmental, promotional or financial support
- Mobilize political backing
- Identify priority areas
- Implement action plans
- Encourage and support community participation
How Should the Alliance be Structured?

When developing a coordinating mechanism for HECA, there is a need to:

• Weigh the many options and possibilities
• Draw on experiences from other initiatives
• Consider the benefits (especially in the early stages) of a flexible governance structure
• Consider if there is an eventual need for a more ‘structured’, formal arrangement
Governance

Many options and possibilities...

Alliance Partners
Advocacy, technical expertise, local know-how, operationalising activities, and financing
- Governments
- UN agencies and other Intergovernmental bodies
- International Organisations
- Bilateral Development Agencies
- Foundations and Trusts
- NGOs
- Academic/Research Institutions
- Private sector
- Local communities
- Children and adolescent groups
- The media

Steering Group
Overall oversight, policies and strategy setting

Secretariat
Facilitating implementation, coordination and management

Working Groups (as appropriate)
The Alliance Approach

- Requires a truly integrated multisectoral approach
- Calls for the cooperation of different government departments (health, housing, energy, water...)
- Encourages the active participation of community members (parents, teachers, social workers...)
Shaping their future