



# Healthy Environments for Children

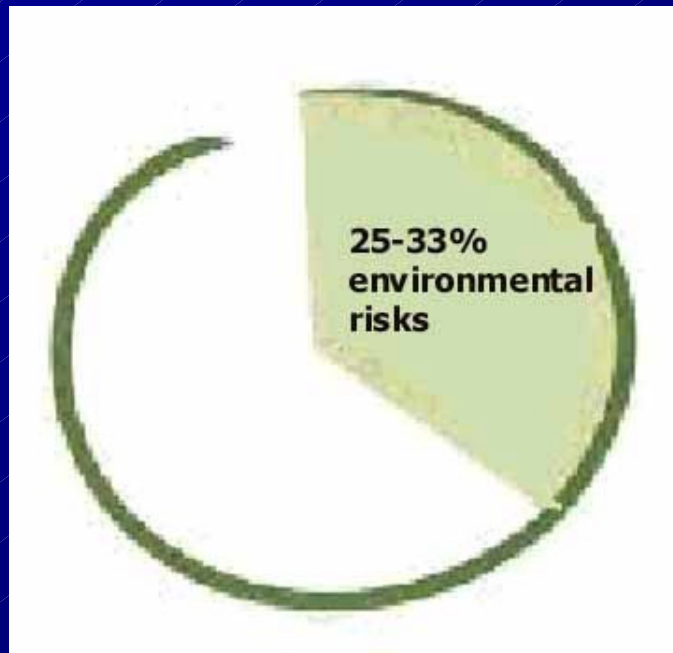
**AN ALLIANCE TO SHAPE  
THE FUTURE OF LIFE**



**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**



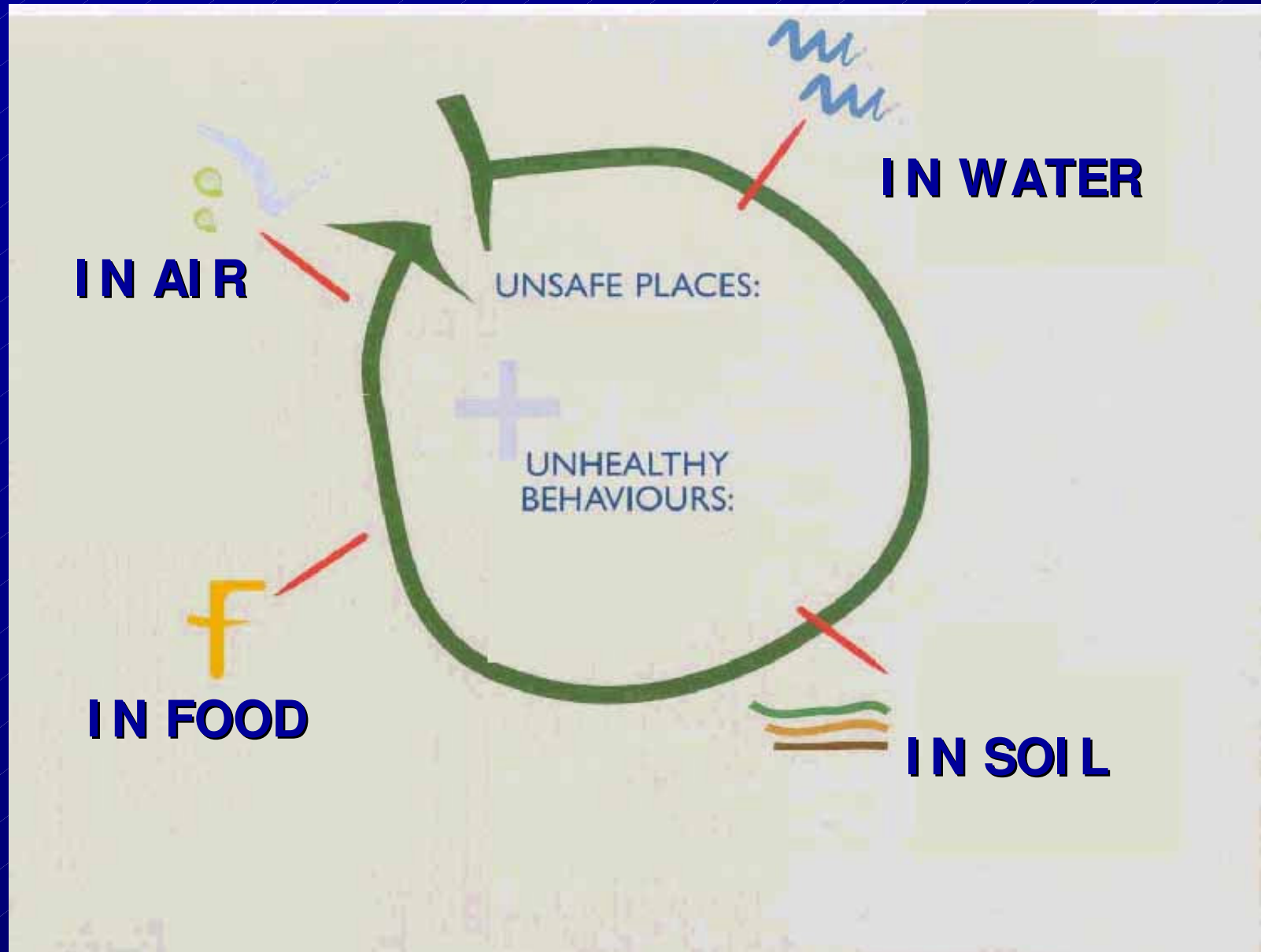
## Poor Children Suffer the Most



- 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)

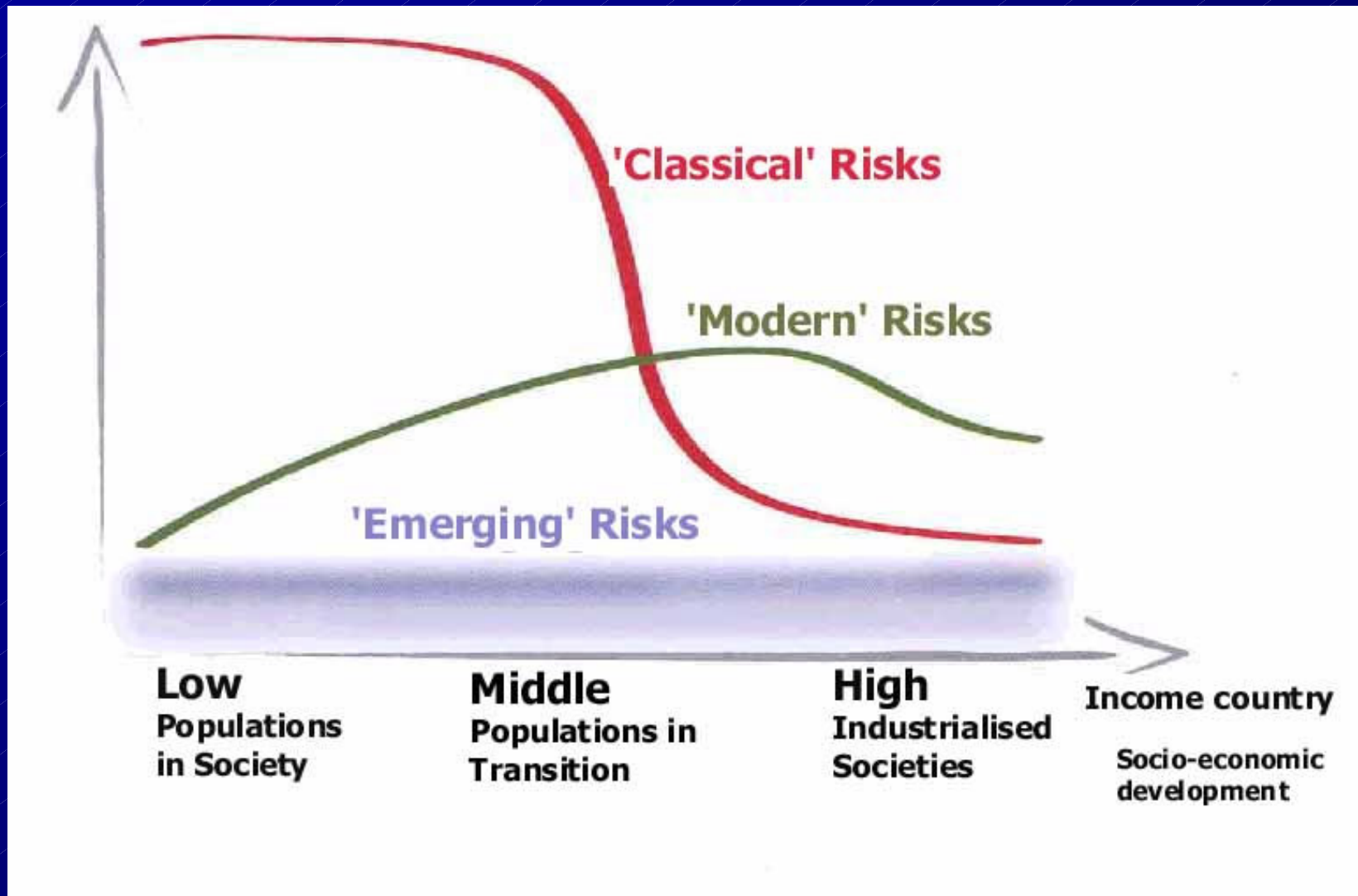


# Risks to Children's Health





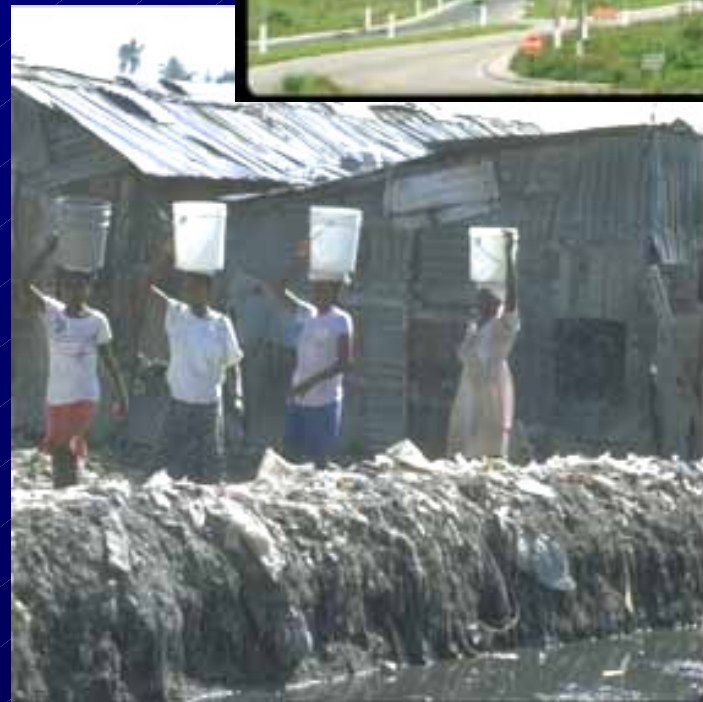
# Environmental Risk Transition





# 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





# Focus



## Need for an Intersectoral Approach to Tackle Multiple Risks

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

TARGET  
FOR ACTION

Focused  
Research

Intersectoral  
Action

Clear  
Policies

Existing  
Knowledge

Healthy Places  
Happy Faces

Targeted  
Action



# Methods of Work...





# Approach to Achieving Goals

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- **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

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- **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

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



# Information Exchange

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



# 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



**Area 3**



# Monitoring and evaluating progress

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



# Potential Roles of Alliance Members

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- 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

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- **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