HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE COALITION


Coordination Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland
October 29, 2018
WHY CREATE A GLOBAL COALITION ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE?
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON HEALTH
WHAT IS THE BIG PICTURE?

FACT:
23%
of all global deaths are linked to the environment.
That’s roughly 12.6 million deaths a year.

WHERE IS IT HAPPENING?

- 3.8 million
  in South-East Asia Region
- 3.5 million
  in Western Pacific Region
- 2.2 million
  in Africa Region
- 1.4 million
  in European Region
- 854,000
  in Eastern Mediterranean Region
- 847,000
  in the Region of the Americas

World Health Organization
#EnvironmentalHealth
HOW THE ENVIRONMENT IMPACTS OUR HEALTH

People are exposed to risk factors in their homes, work places and communities through:

- **Air Pollution**
  - including indoors and outdoors

- **Inadequate Water, Sanitation**
  - and hygiene

- **Chemicals**
  - and biological agents

- **Radiation**
  - ultraviolet and ionizing

- **Climate Change**

- **Built Environments**
  - including housing and roads

- **Agricultural Practices**
  - including pesticide-use, waste-water reuse

- **Occupational Risks**

- **Community Noise**

*World Health Organization*  
#EnvironmentalHealth
• Over two dozen Ministers and high level officials from both the health and environment sectors signed up to the “Marrakech Declaration for Health, Environment and Climate Change” – noting the absence of a global mechanism to bring together Ministries and relevant actors to better address risks.
• Meeting participants called for the WHO, the UN Environment Programme, the WMO, and UNFCCC to establish a global coalition between Ministries of Health, Ministries of Environment, and other stakeholders, to drive forward actions that will protect and promote health, while also reducing harmful impacts on the environment and climate.
In response to this mandate, at the World Health Assembly in May 2018, the heads of WHO, UN Environment and WMO launched the Health, Environment and Climate Change Coalition.

Next steps are needed to shape and further operationalize the coalition.
WHERE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?
1. The Paris Agreement as a public health treaty

- **AGREEMENT PREAMBLE**: Recognizing also that when developing policies and taking action to address climate change, Parties should promote, protect, respect, and take into account their respective obligations on all human rights, the right to health....;

- **ENHANCED ACTION PRIOR TO 2020**: Recognizes the social, economic and environmental value of voluntary mitigation actions and their co-benefits for adaptation, health and sustainable development....;
## 2. Gaining health "co-benefits" of environmental action, climate change mitigation and adaptation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Climate measure</th>
<th>Co-benefit for health</th>
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<tr>
<td>Generating electricity from renewable sources and using clean fuels for cooking and lighting</td>
<td>Reduction in indoor and outdoor air pollution and its multiple health effects</td>
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<td>Increasing “active transport” (e.g. cycling)</td>
<td>Reduction in traffic pollution; increase in physical activity &amp; overall level of health</td>
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<td>Improving climate resilience, energy access and sustainability of health facilities</td>
<td>Reduced impacts of extreme weather, improved healthcare outcomes, improved efficiency</td>
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3. Environment and Health in the Sustainable Development Goals
ADDED VALUE OF A GLOBAL COALITION ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
Coalition Goal and Objectives

*Goal: to stimulate and strengthen collaborations across sectors and departments and with stakeholders at all levels which can promote more integrated and evidence-based policy-and decision-making to address issues at the interface of environment, climate, and health.*

1. **To promote coherent health and environmental governance and policies**, promoting the accelerated delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. (e.g. policy function)
2. **To support the generation, synthesis, and accessibility of information and knowledge** to enhance awareness and decision-making about the environmental risks factors to human health (e.g. scientific function)
3. **To raise awareness** of the environmental risks factors to human health, and encourage actionable policy and community actions that protect health and promote the co-benefits of environmental protection. (e.g. communication function)
4. **To support concrete collaborative actions** which add value to existing initiatives that promote human health and well-being *and protect the* environment (e.g. capacity strengthening and country action function)

*For the moment, the Coalition gathers WHO, UN Environment, WMO and UNFCCC*
The Coalition began mapping relevant priorities and programmes, existing joint work, and agreed to an initial focus on Air Quality. Together with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, a joint Action Plan outlining five areas of joint or complementary work on Air Pollution was launched in May 2017.

Based on initial achievements to address air pollution, the Coalition will also be one of the key partners contributing to the delivery of the UNEA3 Implementation Plan to address pollution.

Source: http://www.who.int/phe/delivering-air-quality.pdf?ua=1
1. Identifying and mapping of air pollution and its sources and health impacts to enable impactful action
2. Communicating and advocating at all levels
3. Providing effective responses to acute air pollution episodes
4. Supporting science-based solutions and building capacity to act in health, environment and economic sectors.
5. Implementing solutions in sustainable development
Key Questions to be addressed in the development of the Coalition

How do we ensure the coalition:

– Supports relevant work of your organization?
– Leverages and maximizes the efforts and the commitments of the existing environmental regional processes and helps address gaps in your countries' work on health protection from environmental risks; domestically and internationally?
– Provides added value to the health, environment and climate change agenda? Improves coherence across the global sustainable development agenda?
– Is more than just a talking shop – actually supporting actions and implementation?
Today’s Objectives

• Share regional agendas and priorities on health, environment and climate change;
• Present ongoing activities of UN agencies and key actors on health, environment and climate change;
• Gather interest from potential new partners of the Coalition;
• Hear about expectations;
• Identify potential areas of collaboration on health, environment and climate change and possible joint deliverables;
• Discuss and agree on how to make full use of the Coalition as a coordination mechanism on health, environment and climate change.
THANK YOU