People at work are exposed to many occupational risks – including high levels of dust, noise, vibration, heat, toxic chemicals, pathogens, ergonomic risks and unsafe equipment – leading to occupational diseases and injuries. Psychosocial factors, such as harassment, shift work, long working hours, and precarious employment, affect physical and mental health and well-being and lead to health inequalities. Improving health at work requires regulations and measures for occupational health and safety, enabling healthy behaviours and provision of occupational health services.
At least 1.2 million deaths were due to occupational risks in 2015.

About 3% of the global disease burden is due to occupational risks.

Noncommunicable diseases contribute 70% to the total occupational disease burden.

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE BURDEN BY SELECTED OCCUPATIONAL RISKS:
(IN DISABILITY-ADJUSTED LIFE-YEARS)

- 28% Occupational carcinogens (20,682,726 DALYs)
- 29% Occupational injuries (22,028,767 DALYs)
- 21% Occupational ergonomic factors (15,479,932 DALYs)
- 13% Occupational particulate matter, gases, and fumes (9,377,104 DALYs)
- 10% Occupational noise (7,108,277 DALYs)
1. **Cooperation**
   Strengthen the cooperation of the health and labour sectors to achieve healthier and safer work environments and improve the health and well-being of working people.

2. **Regulations**
   Implement occupational safety and health regulations to protect workers from work-related health problems.

3. **Monitoring**
   Monitor the status of workers’ health and its determinants at the national, local and workplace levels.

4. **Primary prevention**
   Foster the primary prevention of occupational health risks based on the hierarchy of controls: replace and substitute harmful products and processes, use engineering and administrative controls and personal protective equipment.

5. **Essential interventions and basic health services**
   Ensure access of all workers to essential interventions and basic health services for prevention and control of occupational and work-related diseases and injuries, including workplace risk assessment, case management of occupational diseases and health surveillance of workers.

**WHAT ARE KEY ACTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT?**

Key actions on workplaces and occupational health include the following:
MAIN WHO ACTIONS

WHO actions on workplaces and occupational health include the following:

National policies
Provide technical support for the development of national policies on workers’ health.

Early detection
Develop methods for early detection of the most common occupational diseases.

Global observatory
Establish a global observatory for workers’ health, covering the state of workers’ health and its determinants.

Primary care
Provide technical support to countries for integrating work-related health aspects into people-centred primary care.

Country capacity
Strengthen country capacity for protecting the health and safety of health workers.

Emergencies
Develop tools for management of occupational health and safety in public health emergencies.

Vulnerable situations
Synthesize and disseminate evidence and good practices for protecting the health of workers in vulnerable situations, such as those in the informal sector and small-scale farming, and migrant workers.

Further information: http://www.who.int/occupational_health/en/