

WHO's work to improve air quality, energy access & health

43rd session of the Executive Body of the UNECE Convention on
Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

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13 December 2023, Geneva



World is falling short of achieving SDG 3, 7 & 11

Impacts:

- Exposure to ambient & household air pollution is responsible for

7 million deaths annually

of these

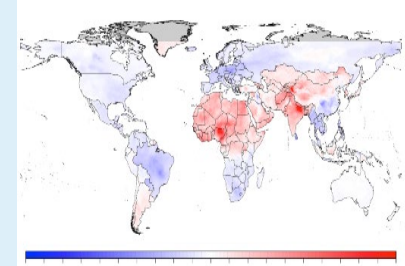
5 million are due to NCD's

(16% of all NCD deaths between the ages of 30 and 69 years old)

Health Determinants:

Ambient air pollution

91% of world exposed to unhealthy air



Household air pollution

2.4 billion people lack access to clean cooking



Electricity in healthcare facilities

1 billion people lack access to electrified health care facilities



Air pollution risk factor for NCDs

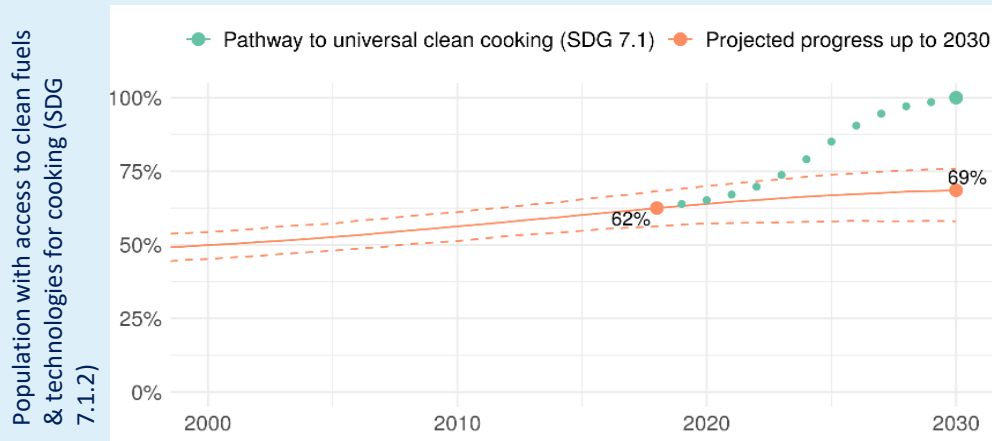
- Air pollution is the second leading cause of deaths from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), after tobacco-smoking.



Scope of the air quality, energy and health activities

Household air pollution

Using the 'health argument' to accelerate the transition to clean household energy



The access gap that enhanced cooperation between Health & Energy aim to achieve **SDG 3, 7 & 11**



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

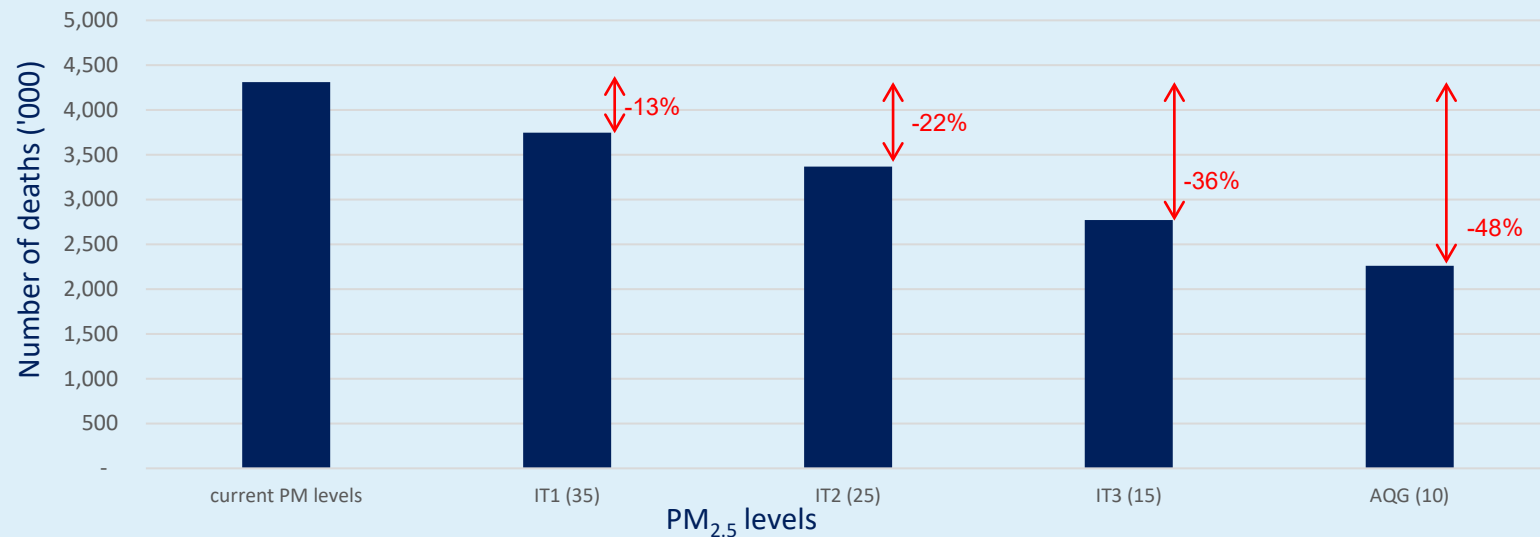


11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Ambient air pollution

Achieving the WHO Air Quality Guidelines or Interim Targets would save lives



Clean air and energy access for healthier populations and universal health coverage



WHO Strategic Approach for Air Quality, Energy Access and Health

Knowledge, Evidence and Measuring Progress

Provide the evidence base and collect data to inform policies and programmes

“What we know, what we don’t know and where we are”

Synthesize evidence to inform policy	Develop of Normative Recommendations & Guidance	Establish baseline and measure progress
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Inform</i>2. <i>Develop air quality guidelines & support translation to air quality standards with benchmarks</i>3. <i>Establish baseline & monitoring change</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Technical reports</i>2. <i>Publicly available data</i>3. <i>Methods & protocols</i>4. <i>Reports on Progress</i>5. <i>Methods & Protocols</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>WHO Air Quality Guidelines</i>• <i>WHO Air Quality and energy access databases</i>• <i>SDG 7 Tracking Progress Report</i>• <i>Household Energy Policy Repository</i>



Evidence base on air pollution and energy access is comprehensive, up to date, and publicly available to inform decision-making and monitor progress

Background

WHO is a custodian agencies of several air pollution SDGs indicators



Indicator 11.6.2 Air quality in cities

Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)



Indicator 7.1.2 Access to clean fuels and technology

Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology



Indicator 3.9.1 Mortality from the joint effect of household and ambient air pollution

Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (per 100 000 population, age-standardized)

Institutional Capacity-building & Technical Support

Develop tools and resources, and support their application in countries, to translate the evidence into policies and actions

“How best to do it”

Inform the development of regulatory frameworks	Planning and implementation of interventions	Train and educate health and other sectors
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Inform the development of regulatory mechanisms2. Planning & implementation of policies3. Train and educate health and other professionals	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Health workforce & curricula2. Tools and calculators for situational assessments3. Methods for health impact assessments and monitoring intervention impacts4. Guidance for policy development, regulatory mechanisms & programme implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean Household Energy Solutions Toolkit (CHEST)• Air Pollution and health training toolkit for health workers (APHT)• HEAT• AirQ+• CLIMAQ-H• GreenUR



Country stakeholders are equipped with the knowledge, skills and capacity on energy access & air quality to implement evidence-base actions in policies & health care delivery

WHO Toolkit to support countries in identifying and implementing clean household energy solutions



CHEST

CLEAN HOUSEHOLD ENERGY SOLUTIONS TOOLKIT



STAKEHOLDER
MAPPING AND
SITUATIONAL
ASSESSMENT

MODULE 1



IDENTIFICATION
OF TECHNOLOGICAL
AND POLICY
INTERVENTIONS

MODULE 2



GUIDANCE ON
STANDARDS AND
TESTING

MODULE 3



MONITORING AND
EVALUATION

MODULE 4



ENGAGING
THE HEALTH
COMMUNITY

MODULE 5



COMMUNICATION
AND RAISING
AWARENESS

MODULE 6

Providing tools to develop appropriate environmental policies to protect public health

In collaboration with different WHO Regions, development and adaptation of tools that have a strong quantitative component, but also offer the possibility to follow decision-making processes in different phases

Offer tools that fit different purposes: Capacity building, Decision-making, Education, Producing estimates, Training

- **HEAT**

Health economic assessment tool for walking and for cycling



- **AirQ+**

Software tool for health risk assessment of air pollution



- **CLIMAQ-H (former CarbonH)**

Achieving health benefits from carbon reductions



- **GreenUr**

Green spaces and health tool



Tailor and adapt tools for analysis at different scales, including urban and rural areas in LMI countries



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13 CLIMATE ACTION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



Air pollution and health training toolkit for health workers (APHT)

Training toolkit: a snapshot

- **Training modules (about 10)**
- **Training-the-trainers** manual
- **Clinical case scenarios** on air pollution and health
- **Job aids and flipcharts** for community engagement
- Report on Pilot workshop in Ghana (June 2022)

- **OpenWHO online course (contains 4 modules)**
“Air pollution and health: an introduction for health workers” (*launched on 7 September 2023, International Day for Clean Air and Blue Skies 2023*)

OpenWHO online course



What you'll learn

- Main air pollutants and their sources;
- How humans are exposed to air pollutants;
- Main health effects of air pollution & at-risk populations;
- Leading role health workers can play to address air pollution and health issues with individuals, patients, and communities.

<https://openwho.org/courses/air-pollution-health-workers>

Free online course

Duration: approximately 4h

Leadership & Coordination

Promote health leadership and facilitate multi-sectoral coordination to accelerate action

“Lead and steer”

Convene Interdisciplinary Expert Groups	Promote Cross-sectoral & Interagency Collaboration	Leverage ‘Health Argument’ For Scaling-up Actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Convene interdisciplinary expert groups2. Promote multisectoral cooperation and interagency cooperation3. Leverage 'health' argument for action	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. WHO-led interdisciplinary expert groups2. Political commitment via WHO-led high-level coalitions & country engagements3. Multi-partner initiatives & collaborative efforts\4. Joint technical activities with NCDs, MCH, climate change, WSH, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WHO Air Quality & Energy Access Conference (expected Q4 2024)• Breathe Life Campaign• High-level Coalition on Health & Energy• World Health Assembly Resolution (WHA 68.8) & related road maps



Health, air quality and energy access is recognized and systematically integrated in the global developmental agenda to drive sectoral planning and actions

Health and Energy Platform of Action (HEPA)

- Mobilize political & financial commitment
 - *the High-Level Coalition on Health and Energy*
- Promote the development of country implementation road maps
- Demonstrate leadership
- Conduct advocacy and outreach
- Promote an interdisciplinary approach



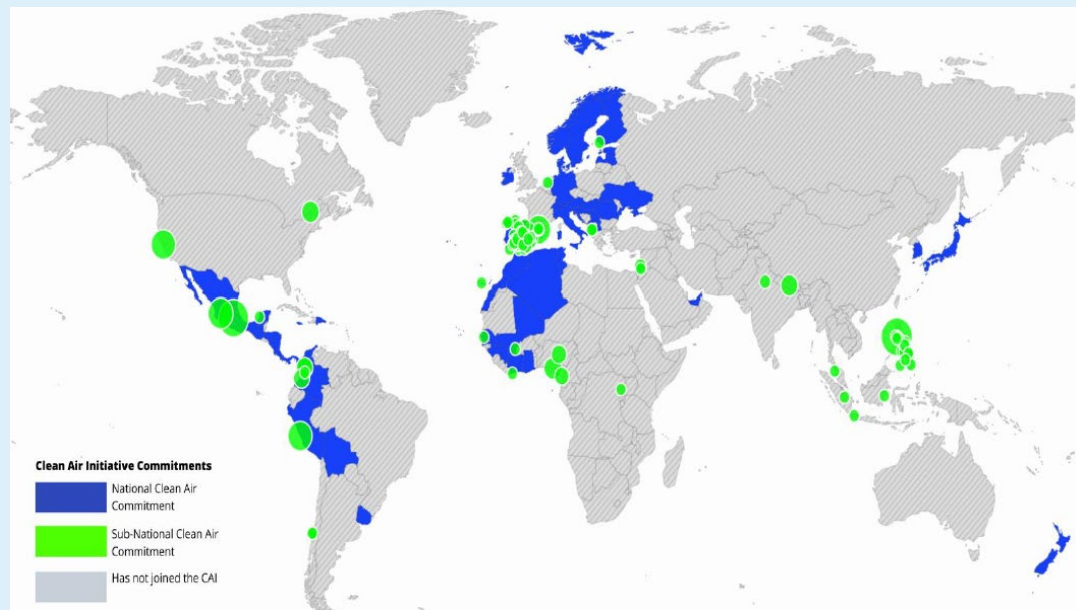
Health and Energy
Platform of Action



Advocacy: Winning political commitments to meet WHO air quality

50 countries representing over 1 billion people committed at the UNSG Climate Action Summit;

- 400.000 lives/year saved by compliance



Driving political leadership and commitment: 194 Member States agreed to WHA resolution and roadmap on air pollution.



26 countries, 12 cities, 11 UN agencies, 39 NGOs and the EU committed to a range of interventions to address air pollution



76 member BreatheLife network – local efforts to improve air quality and monitor progress towards meeting WHO air quality guidelines.

Global conference on air pollution and health:

Accelerating action for
clean air, clean energy access and climate mitigation

28 October - 1 November 2024

Accra, Ghana

Key objectives of the conference include:

- **Share the latest evidence** on health risks of air pollution and energy poverty, assessment tools and resources for decision-making
- Take stock of **global progress** since 2015 after the WHA resolution and the start of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Showcase health, climate, gender and equity **co-benefits** of air pollution and energy action
- Mobilize, value and **empower health professionals** to 'prescribe' clean air for health
- Iterate strategies to **mitigate the health sector's environmental footprint**
- Harness **climate and development finance** to tackle air pollution and ensure a just energy transition.
- **Leverage health arguments** to drive country cooperation and financial commitments.
- Countries, regions and cities **join Breathe Life** and commit to air pollution reductions by 2030 and beyond

Thank you

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