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
TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH FROM THE ENVIRONMENT

8.2 million out of 12.6 million deaths caused by the environment are due to noncommunicable diseases
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
- **Community Noise**
- **Occupational Risks**
- **Climate Change**
- **Built Environments** including housing and roads
- **Agricultural Practices** including pesticide-use, waste-water reuse

World Health Organization
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WHO IS MOST IMPACTED
BY THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental impacts on health are uneven across age and mostly affect the poor.

Children under five and adults between 50 and 75 years old are most affected by the environment.

1.7 MILLION Deaths in children under five. The most prominent causes are lower respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases.

4.9 MILLION Deaths in adults between 50 and 75 years. The most common causes are noncommunicable diseases and injuries.

Low- and middle-income countries bear the greatest share of environmental disease.

Men are slightly more affected due to occupational risks and injuries.

Women bear higher exposures to traditional environmental risks such as smoke from cooking with solid fuels or carrying water.

YEARLY

4.9 MILLION Deaths in adults
1.7 MILLION Deaths in children

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Implement interventions that can increase sun protective behaviour.

1. Apply low carbon strategies in energy generation, housing and the industry.
2. Use more active and public transportation.
3. Introduce clean fuels for cooking, heating and lighting and clean technologies.
4. Reduce occupational exposures and improve working conditions.
5. Increase access to safe water and adequate sanitation and promote hand washing.
6. Change consumption patterns to lower the use of harmful chemicals, minimize waste production and save energy.
7. Implement interventions that can increase sun protective behaviour.
8. Pass smoking bans to reduce exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke.
9. Always use a health in all policies approach to create healthier environments and prevent disease.

These WIN-WIN strategies are fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: 17 Goals to Transform Our World. Let's all work towards a healthier environment for our health.