AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE
2021-2030
Climate Change and Environmental Determinants of Health
Communicable Diseases and Environmental Determinants of Health.

HEALTH IMPACT ATTRIBUTED TO KNOWN AND AVOIDABLE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN THE AMERICAS

- **Air pollution**: Linked to approximately 200,000 premature deaths in LAC due to stroke, heart disease, lung disease, and cancer.
- **Contaminated water and inadequate sanitation**: In LAC, over 19 million people do not have at least basic drinking water services and nearly 84 million people have inadequate sanitation services, of which 13 million practiced open defecation.
- **Inadequate solid waste management**: Lack of basic solid waste collection services and open dumping of waste, along with indiscriminate dumping of waste in streams or abandoned areas.
- **Exposure to hazardous chemicals**: Exposure to lead, mercury, arsenic, and pesticides is an important contributor to disease, and it is of particular concern to children and other highly susceptible populations.
- **Negative climate change-related impacts**: Extreme weather events, changing climate patterns, and other slow-onset phenomena have exacerbated food insecurity, air pollution, limited access to clean water, transmission patterns of zoonotic and waterborne disease pathogens, and threats to mental health. Health impacts are exacerbated in areas where poverty, population pressures and inadequate public health infrastructure exist.

A critical challenge
Environmental public health inequalities between and within countries.

PAHO’S GUIDING VALUES

- **Integrity**: “The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.”
- **Solidarity**: “A true society is one in which the welfare of all members is considered.”
- **Equity**: “We recognize and value the right of every human being to enjoy the highest level of health possible.”
- **Excellence**: “The highest level of health is achieved when the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being of every person is safeguarded and enhanced.”
- **Respect**: “We believe in the inherent dignity and worth of every human being.”

HOW WILL THE AGENDA BE IMPLEMENTED?

- **Improve the performance of environmental public health programs and institutions.**
- **Foster an environmentally sustainable and resilient health system.**
- **Promote environmentally healthy and resilient cities and communities.**

THREATENING FACTORS

- Climate Change and Health
- Chemical Safety
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Air Quality and Health

A shared responsibility
✓ Call to action to the environmental public health community to lead.
✓ Embracing health system resilience and environmental sustainability.
✓ Use of the power of partnerships and knowledge.

**Equity at the heart of environmental public health.**

**HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Environmental public health is the branch of public health that addresses global, regional, national, and subnational environmental factors that influence human health, including physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and their related behaviors.