AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change and Environmental Determinants of Health

Communicable Diseases and Environmental Determinants of Health.

2021-2030
HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Equity at the heart of environmental public health.
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.
HEALTH IMPACT ATTRIBUTED TO KNOWN AND AVOIDABLE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN THE AMERICAS

1\% of premature deaths in high-income countries

1,016,000 premature deaths per year

2\% of premature deaths in low- and middle-income countries
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.

Air pollution: Linked to approximately 250,000 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 is of particular concern to children and other highly susceptible populations.

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. 
A critical challenge

Environmental public health inequalities between and within countries.
PAHO’S GUIDING VALUES

INTEGRITY

EQUITY

SOLIDARITY

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

“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”.

HOW WILL THE AGENDA BE IMPLEMENTED?

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- 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.
BUILD UPON OUR STRENGTHS

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Improve the performance of environmental public health programs and institutions.
  - **Assessment** (monitoring; surveillance; research and knowledge management).
  - **Policy development** (policies, legislation, and regulatory frameworks; social participation and mobilization).
  - **Resource allocation** (development of human resources; financing).

THEMATIC AREAS

- Climate Change and Health.
- Chemical Safety.
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.
- Air Quality and Health.
STRENGTHEN THE HEALTH SYSTEM

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Improve the performance of environmental public health programs and institutions.
- Foster an environmentally sustainable and resilient health system.

- **Assessment** (environmental footprint calculation).
- **Access** (access to resilient and sustainable services).
- **Resource allocation** (safe and sustainable management of medicines and other health technologies).

THEMATIC AREAS

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

**THEMATIC AREAS**

- Climate Change and Health.
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**STRATEGIC ACTIONS**

- Access (interventions on environmental factors; addressing social determinants of 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.
THE AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE 2021-2030

Thank you!