

# AIR POLLUTION IS A GLOBAL CHILDREN'S HEALTH ISSUE

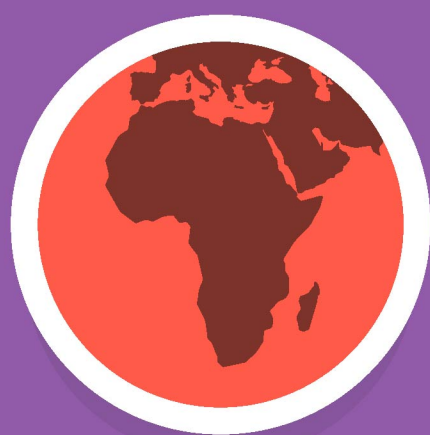
Globally **93%** of all children and **630 million** children under 5 years are exposed to air pollution levels\* above the WHO air quality guidelines

\*fine particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter (PM2.5)



## THE BURDEN OF DISEASE FROM POLLUTED AIR IS HEAVIEST IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

Percentage of children under 5 years exposed to PM2.5\* levels higher than the WHO air quality guideline are:



**100%**

Africa & Eastern Mediterranean



**99%**

South-East Asia



**98%**

Western Pacific



**87%**

Americas

**98%**

Low- and middle-income countries

**52%**

High-income countries

**CLEAN AIR FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH**

**#AirPollution**



**World Health  
Organization**



# WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM DIRTY AIR

## Air pollution can be fought on many fronts

### HOUSES

Use of clean  
cook stoves  
for cooking



### CLINICS



### MUNICIPALITIES



### INSTITUTIONS

### NATIONAL GOVERNMENT



### GLOBAL COMMUNITY



### SCHOOLS

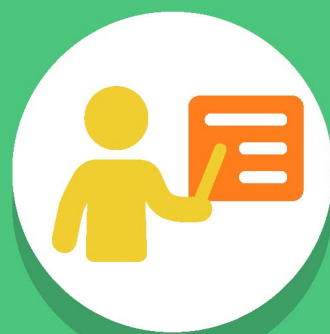
## HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ARE UNIQUELY PLACED TO TAKE ACTION ON AIR POLLUTION



Be informed



Recognize exposure  
and related health  
conditions



Prescribe solutions,  
and educate families,  
communities,  
colleagues and  
students



Advocate solutions  
to other sectors,  
policy- and  
decision-makers



Research, publish  
and disseminate  
knowledge

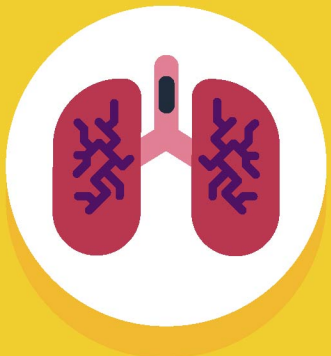
The broader health sector must become more engaged



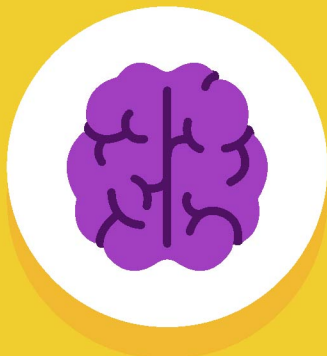


# IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH

A child who is exposed to unsafe levels of pollution can face a lifetime of health impacts. Exposure in the womb or in early childhood can lead to:



Stunted lung growth  
Reduced lung function  
Increased risk of developing asthma  
Acute lower respiratory infections



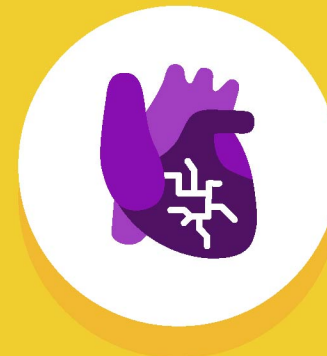
Impaired mental and motor development  
Behavioral disorders



Low birth weight  
Premature birth  
Infant mortality



Childhood cancers



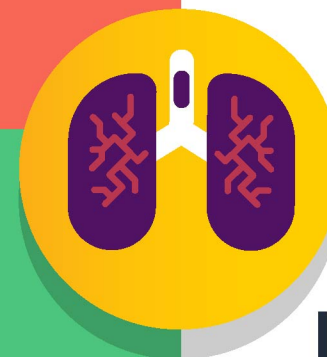
Increased risk of heart disease, diabetes and stroke in adulthood



## IN 2016, AMBIENT AND HOUSEHOLD AIR POLLUTION CAUSED

**543,000** deaths  
in children under 5 years

**52,000** deaths  
in children aged 5 - 15 years



Household and ambient air pollution cause more than 50% of acute lower respiratory infection in children under 5 years in lower- and middle-income countries.