



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Children's Environmental Health Indicators: Five Years After the Global Commitment at the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Location: Hammamet, Tunisia

Dates: 10-11 April 2008

Aims

The workshop will assess progress made to date on developing children's environmental health indicators and outline directions for future work.

Specific workshop objectives

- To review efforts to date on developing and reporting children's environmental health indicators around the world;
- To review the initial findings from the evaluation of CEHI development and implementation mechanisms;
- To identify lessons learned and best practices;
- To review a draft version of the report *"Children's Environmental Health Indicators - Presenting regional successes, learning for the future"*;
- To plan for continued improvement in children's environmental health indicator development and reporting in view of integrating activities into national systems.

Background

The Global Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI) was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 with partners from governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations (See Attachment 1). WHO has been coordinating the development and implementation of this initiative with funding support from the United

States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), enabling the creation of several pilot indicator projects around the world. Other notable children's environmental health indicators efforts were also in progress or started over the last five years, notably in Europe, North America, South America, and the United States. An assessment of all these efforts will provide important information and lessons on developing and implementing children's environmental health indicators and will help guide future efforts.

Children's environmental health indicators

Environmental factors have been identified as a critical influence on children's health. Developing children's environmental health indicators, which provide quantitative information on trends in important environmental health factors, is crucial for implementing successful interventions and identifying future policy needs to improve children's health at the national and global level. Implementing children's environmental health indicators contributes towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations (notably Goal 4, to improve child health and Goal 7, to ensure environmental sustainability) (Attachment 2).

Regional and country efforts for workshop review

Children's environmental health indicator pilot projects in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, Europe and North America are available for review. Various methodological approaches were used by different pilot projects to collect and report on children's environmental health indicators. In some cases, data from existing international

databases were compiled (e.g. Europe, North America), while in others, household surveys were undertaken to collect primary data (e.g. Eastern Mediterranean Region). An assessment and evaluation of these different mechanisms, listing the advantages and disadvantages of various approaches, utility for monitoring relevant factors for children's environmental health and contribution to appropriate targeting of interventions, is essential. To respond to this need, a background document will be prepared by students participating in the International Environmental Policy Practicum at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), a division of The Johns Hopkins University. This background document will present an initial evaluation of the country efforts to date and will be available for review prior to the workshop. This work is expected to provide an overall assessment of the methodology for indicator selection and monitoring, and can be used to guide future efforts in this area.

Because different regions and countries have diverse sets of children's environmental health problems due to, for example, climate, geology, level of industrialization, degree of urbanization, and socio-demographic characteristics, each of these efforts contribute in unique ways to global children's environmental health reporting under a common framework. The indicators made available through these efforts will form the basis for a global clearing house on children's environmental health indicators. WHO has offered to host this clearing house.

In addition to providing a first glimpse of the state of children's environmental health in different regions of the world, these efforts play an essential role in testing and evaluating different options for information and data collection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Martha Berger

Office of Children's Health Protection
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 1107A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
USA

Tel: +1 202 564 21 91
Fax: +1 202 564 27 33
Email: berger.martha@epa.gov

Fiona Gore

Public Health and Environment
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 791 16 19
Fax: +41 22 791 13 83
Email: goref@who.int

Attachment 1: PARTNERS AND CEH INDICATOR INFORMATION

Partners of the Global Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Indicators

Governments:

Canada

Italy

Mexico

South Africa

United States of America

Intergovernmental Organizations:

Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America (CEC)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

World Health Organization (WHO)

Non-governmental Organizations:

International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES)

International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE)

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)

National and Regional information on Children's Environmental Health Indicator Development

THE AMERICAS

- **Canada, Mexico, United States** (Led by the Commission for Environmental Co-operation - CEC, Montreal) http://www.cec.org/programs_projects/pollutants_health/children/index.cfm?varlan=english
- **United States: USEPA - Office of Children's Health Protection.** More information: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/homepage.htm>
- **United States:** America's Children and the Environment: <http://www.epa.gov/envirohealth/children>
- **United States: CDC - Environmental Public Health Tracking.** More information: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/tracking/>
- **Canada: Health Canada - Report of the Steering Committee to the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Committee on Health and Environment, May 2, 2006.** Recommended Indicators of Children's Environmental Health In Canada.
- **Canada:** The Canadian Institute of Child Health has developed CEH indicators in collaboration with AAMA through the project "Measuring the Environmental Impact on Children's Health in the Southern Cone": http://www.cich.ca/project_safeenvironment.html

EUROPE

- **WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (Bonn, Germany).** More information: <http://www.euro.who.int/EHindicators> and;
- **"Environment and Health Information System for Europe".** More information: www.enhis.org

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

- **WHO Centre for Environment and Health (Amman, Jordan).** More information: <http://www.emro.who.int/ceha/>
- **Tunisia - Ministry of Public Health - Environmental Health.** More information: <http://www.santetunisie.rns.tn/msp/msp.html>

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

- **Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente - AAMMA.** More information: <http://www.aamma.org>
- **Demographic and Health Surveys.** More information: <http://www.measuredhs.com/>
- **European Environment Agency.** More information: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/human/indicators>
- **Health Metrics Network.** More information: <http://www.who.int/healthmetrics/en/>
- **International Society of Doctors for the Environment - ISDE.** More information: <http://www.isde.org>
- **International Network on Children's Health Environment and Safety - INCHES.** More information: <http://www.inchesnetwork.net>
- **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - OECD.** More information: http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,2686,en_2649_34283_1_1_1_1_37465,00.html
- **Millennium Development Goals.** More information: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
- **Pediatricians for Social Responsibility - PSR.** More information: <http://www.psr.org/>
- **United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF**
 - A World Fit for Children: http://www.unicef.org/progressforchildren/2007n6/index_41401.htm/
 - Statistical data access by indicator or country: <http://www.unicef.org/statistics/index.html>
 - Monitoring the situation of children and women - MICS: <http://www.childinfo.org/>
- **United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP**
 - Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) data portal: <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch/>
- **United Nations Statistics Division - UN**
 - Division for Sustainable Development - Partnerships: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm>
 - Millennium Development Goal Indicators: <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/default.aspx>
 - Statistical databases: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/databases.htm>
- **World Health Organization - WHO**
 - Children's Environmental Health Indicators: <http://www.who.int/ceh/indicators/en/>
 - Child and Adolescent Health and Development: <http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/>
 - World Health Organization Statistical Information System - WHOSIS: : <http://www.who.int/whosis/en/>

Attachment 2: List of suggested CEH indicators suggest in: “Making a Difference - Indicators to Improve Children's Environmental Health” (WHO 2003) <http://www.who.int/ceh/publications/ceh1590599/en/index.html>

	CONTEXTS	EXPOSURES	HEALTH OUTCOMES	ACTIONS
PERINATAL DISEASES	Children aged 0-14 years living in poverty	Famine risk People living in informal settlements Women of childbearing age who are malnourished Women of childbearing age working in unregulated workplaces Births to mothers living in unsafe or hazardous housing	Perinatal mortality rate Intrauterine growth retardation in newborn children Congenital malformations requiring surgical correction in children under 1 year of age	Women of childbearing age within one hour's travel of specialist maternity and perinatal care Attributable change in number of households lacking basic services Prevalence of stunting in children aged 0-4 years
RESPIRATORY DISEASES	Children aged 0-14 years living in poverty	Children aged 0-14 years living in unsafe, unhealthy or hazardous housing Overcrowding Children aged 0-14 years living in proximity to heavily trafficked roads Mean annual exposure of children aged 0-4 years to atmospheric particulate pollution Children aged 0-4 years living in households using biomass fuels or coal as the main source of heating and cooking Children aged 0-14 years living in households in which at least one adult smokes on a regular basis Intrauterine growth retardation in newborn children	Mortality rate for children aged 0-4 years due to acute respiratory illness Morbidity rate for children aged 0-4 years due to acute respiratory illness Prevalence of chronic respiratory illnesses in children aged 0-14 years	Attributable change in tobacco consumption Attributable change in atmospheric pollutant concentrations Attributable change in numbers of households relying on biomass fuels or coal as the main source of heating or cooking
DIARRHOEAL DISEASES	Children aged 0-14 years living in poverty	Drinking water supplies failing national microbiological water quality standards People living in informal settlements Children aged 0-14 years living in disaster-affected areas Children aged 0-14 years living in households without basic services for water supply, sanitation and hygiene	Diarrhoea mortality rate in children aged 0-4 years Diarrhoea morbidity rate in children aged 0-4 years Recurrence rate of outbreaks of diarrhoeal disease among children aged 0-4 years	Attributable change in the number of households lacking basic services Attributable change in the number of food outlets failing food hygiene standards Children aged 0-4 years able to obtain rehydration therapy within 24 hours of need
INSECT-BORNE DISEASES	Population growth rate in areas endemic for insect-borne diseases	Total area of insect vector habitats Children aged 0-14 years living in households providing suitable conditions for insect-borne disease transmission Children aged 0-14 years living in areas endemic for insect-borne diseases	Mortality rate of children aged 0-4 years due to insect-borne diseases Prevalence of insect-borne diseases in children aged 0-14 years	At-risk children aged 0-14 years covered by effective, integrated vector control and management systems
PHYSICAL INJURIES	Children aged 0-14 years living in poverty	People living in informal settlements Children aged 0-14 years living in disaster-affected areas Children aged 0-14 years living in proximity to heavily trafficked roads Children aged 0-14 years involved in routine employment Children aged 0-14 years living in unsafe, unhealthy or hazardous housing Children aged 0-14 years living in homes lacking access to a piped water supply	Mortality rate of children aged 0-14 years due to physical injuries Incidence of physical injuries to children aged 0-14 years requiring treatment	Children aged 0-14 years living within reach of specialist emergency medical services Attributable change in physical injuries to children aged 0-14 years requiring treatment