

Children's Environmental Health International Initiatives

This is an international mailing list provided by [WHO](#) and [UNEP](#)
dedicated to promoting healthy environments for children

February 2010

Better Burning, Better Breathing: Improving Health with Cleaner Cook Stoves

Breathing the smoke from traditional cook stoves and open fires may have caused 1.96 million premature deaths worldwide in 2004 ([WHO report The Global Burden of Disease: 2004 Update](#)).

The diseases and conditions associated with smoke exposure include pneumonia, chronic respiratory disease, heart disease, low birth weight, tuberculosis and other diseases. Globally, an estimated 49% of deaths attributable to household use of solid fuel are due to pneumonia in children under age 5.

The Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched a New Initiative on Improved Biomass Cookstoves "National Biomass Cookstove Initiative" on the 2nd of December 2009 in New Delhi. This initiative was aimed at enhancing the availability of clean and efficient energy for the poorer sections of society.

The move towards cleaner, fuel efficient stoves is spreading throughout the world, with new stoves replacing open cooking fires in Mexico and Pakistan ([Inter Press Service New Agency](#)). A news feature in [Environmental Health Perspectives](#) reviews the installation of the new stoves and the possible consequences for environmental health



Nigel Bruce/WHO

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

Press Releases

[Access to Health Services a Challenge after Chile Earthquake](#)

The massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Chile in the early hours of Saturday, 27 February, has now claimed at least 708 lives, and the death toll is expected to rise. In southern Chile, six hospitals collapsed and two others were damaged severely and left unable to function.

PAHO 28/02/2010

[Much more needs to be done to help Haiti's children](#)

Six weeks after the massive earthquake that devastated parts of Haiti, UNICEF is urgently scaling up its response on behalf of children

UNICEF 26/02/2010

[Governments celebrate five years of anti-tobacco convention](#)

A ceremony marking the fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) was held today in the Geneva headquarters of the World Health Organization.

WHO 26/02/2010

REMARKS FROM KEY FORUMS

[Convention on tobacco control a triumph for public health](#)

Dr Margaret Chan

Director-General of the World Health Organization
Opening remarks on the fifth anniversary of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
WHO 26/02/2010

[Prevention is best option to tackle non-communicable diseases](#)

Dr Margaret Chan

Director-General of the World Health Organization
Opening remarks at the Global non-communicable disease network (NCDnet) global forum, WHO 24/02/2010

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Air Pollution

[Air Pollution and Increased Levels of Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide in Children with No History of Airway Damage](#)

The relationships between fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO), a potential marker of airway inflammation, and exposure to air pollution were examined in asthmatic and non-asthmatic schoolchildren. The associations they found occur even in children with no history of airway damage and seem to be enhanced in atopic subjects

J Toxicology and Environmental Health

[Global forum addresses solutions to prevent premature deaths](#)

Non-communicable diseases, including heart disease and strokes, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases, account for 60% of all global deaths. NCDnet aims to increase focus on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries.

WHO 24/02/2010

[Meeting Haiti's changing health needs](#)

More than one month after the earthquake that devastated swathes of Haiti, in excess of 300 000 people are suffering from injuries and around one million are living in temporary settlements or host families after losing their homes.

WHO Feb 2010

[Against child marriage: children demand their rights for a secure future](#)

Almost 225 children from across West Bengal gathered together today to launch a movement against child marriage called "Amar Shaishab Amar Adhikar," (My Childhood, My Right) at a meeting jointly hosted by the Department of Women and Child Development & Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal and UNICEF in Kolkata.

UNICEF 24/02/2010

[African Governments urged to adopt Hague Conventions on children](#)

Senior government officials of Africa meet to discuss ways to strengthen cross-border co-operation for the protection of children at risk and better regulate intercountry adoption. The Hague Conventions pertaining to children seek

[Effect of Early Life Exposure to Air Pollution on Development](#)

This study provides evidence for the hypothesis that early life exposure to air pollution plays a role in the development of asthma

Environmental Health Perspectives

Chemicals

[Exposure on Tap: Drinking Water as an Overlooked Source of Lead](#)

This article discusses the risk of exposure to lead through drinking water and states that unlike most water contaminants, lead can get into water after it leaves a water treatment plant making it a difficult contaminant to monitor

Environmental Health Perspectives

[Cadmium, Environmental Exposure, and Health Outcomes](#)

This review discusses the issues surrounding health risk assessment of exposure to the environmental contaminant cadmium,

Environmental Health Perspectives

[Maternal Bisphenol A Exposure Promotes the Development of Experimental Asthma in Mouse Pups](#)

In this article shows that prenatal exposure to BPA in mice enhances allergic sensitisation, bronchial inflammation and airway responsiveness, resulting in an asthma phenotype

Environmental Health Perspectives

to standardize international law in the best interests of the child and provide a comprehensive legal framework for the cross border movement of children between countries.
UNICEF 23/02/2010

[Urgent Need to Prepare Developing Countries for Surge in E-Wastes](#)

With hazardous waste from electric products growing exponentially in developing countries, the UN called for new recycling technologies and tougher regulations to safeguard public health

UNEP 22/02/2010

[Despite progress, millions of children still live in poverty in Egypt](#)

A study looking at the impact of poverty on children in Egypt reveals that while significant progress has been made, vulnerable children continue to face serious deprivations.

UNICEF 18/02/2010

In the Media

[Pesticide exposure deprives Yaqui girls of breastfeeding – ever](#)

Pesticides acted as endocrine disruptors and produced negative health impacts over the years to the exposed Yaqui indigenous communities.

Indian Country Today 28/02/2010

[Rescuers search for Chile quake survivors; death toll jumps to 708](#)

Rescuers smashed through fallen walls and sawed into rubble in an urgent push to find survivors of the massive earthquake that roared through Chile

The Los Angeles Times 28/02/2010

[Prenatal acetaminophen exposure and risk of wheeze at age 5 years in an urban low-income cohort](#)

This study found that children who were exposed to acetaminophen prenatally were more likely to have asthma symptoms at age five

Thorax

Water And Sanitation

[Reductions in the Prevalence and Incidence of Geohelminth Infections following a City-wide Sanitation Program in a Brazilian Urban Centre](#)

This study from Brazil shows how a city-wide sanitation program may reduce the prevalence and incidence of geohelminths, soil-transmitted parasitic nematodes

PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

Climate Change

[Understanding Recent Climate Change](#)

This article gives a review of the recent climate change history and projected consequences, *Conservation Biology*

Reproductive Health

[Method of delivery and pregnancy outcomes in Asia: the WHO global survey on maternal and perinatal health 2007—08](#)

This article reports the third phase of the WHO global survey, which aimed to estimate the rate of different methods of delivery and to examine the relation between method of delivery and maternal and perinatal outcomes in selected facilities in Africa and Latin America in 2004—05, and in Asia in 2007—08. The authors comment that to improve maternal and perinatal outcomes, caesarean section should be performed only when there is a medical indication

Lancet

[Removing lead pipes could backfire](#) The replacement of lead pipes in London could put thousands at risk

London Free Press 26/02/2010

[U.S. examining possible effects of bisphenol A](#)

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences has launched 11 new animal studies to investigate the possible effects of bisphenol A
Reuters 25/02/2010

[Do Toxins Cause Autism?](#) Discussion as to whether prenatal environmental exposures have the potential to injure the developing brain

The New York Times 24/02/2010

[Asbestos danger 'in many schools'](#) Children aren't being protected from asbestos in UK schools

BBC 22/02/2010

[Poor Sanitation in Haiti's Camps Adds Disease Risk](#) Waste accumulation in Haiti is creating conditions for major disease outbreaks

The New York Times 19/02/2010

[Mom's diet may alter infant's allergies](#) Eating lots of vegetables and fruits during pregnancy may lower the chance of having a baby with certain allergies

Reuters 19/02/2010

[Nerve agents could be to blame for tripling of child leukaemia in Basra](#) Rates of leukaemia in children around the Basra area of Southern Iraq have almost tripled in the last 15 years according to calculations by public health experts.

The Times 19/02/2010

[Transcriptional Biomarkers of Steroidogenesis and Trophoblast Differentiation in the Placenta in Relation to Prenatal Phthalate Exposure](#)

This study investigated whether gestational phthalate exposures in humans were associated with altered human placental steroidogenesis and trophoblast differentiation as measured by markers of mRNA transcription. The authors observed a significant association between phthalates exposure and placental gene expression within two pathways

Environmental Health Perspectives

[Maternal Serum Preconception Polychlorinated Biphenyl Concentrations and Infant Birth Weight](#)

The authors discover that the pre-conceptual period may be a sensitive time window for effects of PCBs on development of the unborn child,

Environmental Health Perspectives

UPCOMING EVENTS

[The International Children's Day of Broadcasting \(ICDB\)](#)

'All Rights All Children' – children's broadcasting
7 March 2010. Radio and television broadcasters around the world

[5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health](#)

10 – 12 March 2010. Parma, Italy

["Approaching complexities in environment and health"](#)

The HENVINET final workshop
14 – 15 April 2010. Brussels, Belgium

[PCBs discovered in schools](#) Copenhagen City Council discovers dangerous organic pollutants in almost a third of buildings examined including schools

The Copenhagen Post 19/02/2010

[Chronic health conditions increasing in children](#)

The environments in which children grow up plays a part in the increased prevalence of various chronic health conditions

The Los Angeles Times 17/02/2010

[Parents fume as sick list grows over controversial school heaters](#)

Children in Australia have become seriously ill from exposure to unflued gas heaters in schools

The Sydney Morning Herald 16/02/2010

['Third-hand smoke' could damage health](#)

Lab tests show "substantial levels" of toxins on smoke-exposed material – may cause harm

BBC 09/02/2010

[No Cause Found for Cluster of Birth Defects](#)

No evidence of a single cause for a series of birth defects in a central California farming town adjacent to the largest hazardous waste landfill in the West, The New York Times 09/02/2010

[China Finds Tons of Tainted Milk Powder](#)

Chinese authorities say they are trying to track down nearly 100 tons of milk powder tainted with the industrial chemical melamine as the government struggles to prevent a recurrence of the large-scale milk contamination that killed six children and sickened about 300,000 others in 2008. The Wall Street Journal 08/02/2010

[Global Health and Innovation Conference](#)

17 – 18 April 2010. Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

[17th International Conference on Children's Health](#)

20 – 21 May 2010. Legnica, Poland

Email: fundacjakonferencja@wp.pl

[Third European IRPA Congress](#)

'Towards safer and effective use of radiation in pediatric healthcare'

14 – 18 June 2010, Helsinki, Finland

[4th International Conference on the History of Occupational and Environmental Health](#)

19 – 22 June 2010. California. University of California, San Francisco, USA

[Global Humanitarian Forum - Youth Forum 2010](#)

28 June – 1 July 2010. Geneva, Switzerland

[Water at core of climate change impacts-UN experts](#)

The main impact of climate change will be on water supplies

Reuters 07/02/2010

[A Welcome Retraction](#)

The Lancet, a prestigious British medical journal that published the paper that indicated vaccines might be causing autism in children, has retracted it, saying that the paper's authors had made false claims about how the study was conducted

The New York Times 05/02/2010

[U.S. researchers find new clue to infant deaths](#)

Babies who die from sudden infant death syndrome make low amounts of the message-carrying brain chemical serotonin needed to regulate sleep, breathing and heart rate

Reuters Health 03/02/2010

[Children suffering health problems in Port-au-Prince camps](#)

After the disaster in Haiti, children are increasingly suffering health problems in Port-au-Prince's crowded encampments

The Washington Post 03/02/2010

[US study links infections in womb to asthma](#)

U.S. researchers have linked mothers' infection during pregnancy to asthma, the most common chronic disease among American children, in their offspring.

Reuters 02/02/2010

[Links to past issues and how to subscribe](#)

Have news for us?

If you would like to submit information to future HECANET issues, email us at heca@who.int with the subject line "INFORMATION FOR HECANET".

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