

Framework for Action on Health and the Environment 2014–2019

Priority: Water, sanitation and health

Strategic Response	Action by countries	Action by WHO	Indicator	Baseline in 2014	Target in 2019
Monitoring the water and sanitation sector and evaluating its performance for health protection	Generate biannual national report on assessment and analysis of the water and sanitation sector	Scale up GLAAS (Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water), and maintain the Joint Monitoring Programme for monitoring and reporting on the status of the water supply and sanitation sectors and assessing the impact of these systems on health	No. of countries participating in GLAAS	8	15
Updating national regulations and management practices to address priority water and sanitation challenges and risk factors	Revitalize the public health surveillance functions of: drinking-water availability and quality and wastewater use in agriculture and other applications	Capacity-building and technical support to countries for updating their national drinking-water quality standards based on the WHO drinking-water quality guidelines, and for facilitating the application of these standards through water safety plans	No. of countries actively verifying Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) profiles	15	22
	Develop and implement plans to extend water, sanitation and health services to the unserved and improve services to the under-served	Capacity-building and technical support to countries for updating their national wastewater reuse standards based on the WHO wastewater reuse guidelines and for protecting public health during the reuse process, through the application of preventive sanitation safety plans	No. of countries with updated drinking-water quality standards	15	20
	Develop national policies on domestic water security requirements for health		No. of countries adopting water safety plans	7	12
	Update national standards for drinking-water quality and drinking-water management systems towards preventive water safety management (i.e. water safety plans)		No. of countries with updated wastewater reuse standards	7	12
	Update and enforce national wastewater reuse standards and implement management systems for safe use of wastewater in irrigation				

Priority: Air quality

Strategic Response	Action by countries	Action by WHO	Indicator	Baseline in 2014	Target in 2019
Regulating, monitoring and evaluating air pollution for health protection	Develop/update national air quality standards in line with WHO guidelines	Support countries to establish/update their national outdoor and indoor air quality standards and monitoring systems in line with WHO air quality guidelines	No. of countries that are reporting particulate matter data to the WHO Global Database	8	15
	Advocate for establishing/updating air quality monitoring systems and sharing data with all stakeholders	Strengthen the public health sector capacity for estimating the impact of air pollution on health	No. of studies on burden of air pollution on health	0	6
	Develop/strengthen the surveillance function of the public health sector with regard to air quality, and estimate the impact of air pollution on health	Support studies and applied research for identifying cost-effective interventions for regional and national air quality challenges	No. of countries with ambient air quality early warning systems	1	3
	Raise awareness and advocate for action by all relevant stakeholders, including transport, energy and industry				
	Develop an early warning system to alert the public about dust episodes and other ambient air quality pollutants				

Priority: Chemical safety

Strategic Response	Action by countries	Action by WHO	Indicator	Baseline in 2014	Target in 2019
Establishing risk reduction programmes and partnerships for chemical safety and management, involving all stakeholders	Establish/update national profiles for mapping chemical hazards	Support countries in implementing the health aspects of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and other chemical-related multilateral agreements and conventions	No. of countries with public health strategies on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)	0	5
Building capacity for implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), including development/enhancement of national poison information centres	Establish/update legislation, national policies and coordination on chemicals	Support countries to establish/update their national coordination mechanisms for chemicals management	Percentage of countries with capacity developed to deal with chemical events under the International Health Regulations (2005)	45%	85%
	Establish a coordinated system of surveillance, preparedness and management of chemical accidents, in conformity to the International Health Regulations (2005)	Build a network of experts and institutions to strengthen regional cooperation in preparedness for and response to chemical incidents/accidents, in line with the International Health Regulations (2005)	No. of countries covered by functional poison information centre services	11	15
	Establish/update capacity-building programmes on recognition and management of chemical exposures for public health professionals	Support establishment of regional risk reduction programmes and partnerships for chemical safety and management, involving all stakeholders			
	Establish/upgrade national poison information centres	Facilitate access to chemicals databases and information			

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Priority: Waste management and environmental health services in the health sector

Strategic Response	Action by countries	Action by WHO	Indicator	Baseline in 2014	Target in 2019
Regulating, monitoring and evaluating the impact of wastes on health	Assess the public health impact of waste management policies and practices	Strengthen national capacities in surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of the health impact relevant to integrated waste management	No. of countries that assessed environmental health services in their health care facilities	6	12
	Participate in the formulation of national regulations and policies on waste management, integrating public health aspects	Equip the health sector with standards and evidence on the health impact of wastes in order to guide and lead other sectors to integrate health into their waste management policies	No. of countries with 50% of health care facilities meeting the WHO essential standards on environmental health services in health care facilities	6	12
			No. of countries that have assessed the public health impact of waste management policies	0	6

Priority: Environmental health management in emergencies

Strategic Response	Action by countries	Action by WHO	Indicator	Baseline in 2014	Target in 2019
Developing the capacities of the health sector to manage environmental health services throughout the life cycle of emergencies	Develop environmental health emergency profiles and establish/update environmental health plans for emergencies	Develop systems for the prediction and early warning of, and preparedness for, environmental disasters and emergencies	No. of countries with environmental health in emergency profile	0	6
Providing adequate environmental health services in health care facilities during emergencies	Operationalize policies, programmes and management systems pertinent to environmental health services in health care facilities, including assessment, provision and restoration of services	Establish a regional network of qualified environmental health specialists and sanitarians who can be mobilized and deployed in a timely manner to support countries in need	Functional network for environmental health emergency experts and institutions	0	1
		Strengthen the health sector capacity to develop and operationalize policies, programmes and management systems pertinent to environmental health services in health care facilities, refugee camps and other areas hosting internally displaced persons	Percentage of emergencies adequately responded to with integrated environmental health services	50%	90%

Priority: Climate change and health

Strategic Response	Action by countries	Action by WHO	Indicator	Baseline in 2014	Target in 2019
Developing the preparedness and response capacity of the public health sector to manage the health effects of climate change	Assess the vulnerability of public health sector to climate change, identify the current and future health effects and establish early warning systems	Support countries in building capacity to assess risks and develop health adaptation strategies to protect health from the adverse effects of climate change	No. of countries with vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies on health adaptation to climate change	2	7
	Develop health system response strategies, plans and projects and integrate them into national health strategies	Support the health sector in countries to generate intelligence and early warning on climate-sensitive diseases	No. of countries incorporating climate data into national health information systems	1	4

Priority: Sustainable development and health

Strategic Response	Action by countries	Action by WHO	Indicator	Baseline in 2014	Target in 2019
Enhancing and measuring health gains from sustainable development	Participate in the formulation of the national sustainable development agenda, streamlining health as a precursor for, outcome of, and an indicator for sustainable development.	Provide evidence-based advocacy materials, technical support and guidance on methodologies and approaches for streamlining health as a precursor for, outcome of, and an indicator for sustainable development	No. of countries integrating public health into sustainable development policies as recommended by Rio+20	0	3
Greening of the health sector	Strengthen environmental health in community development programmes and initiatives	Provide tools, technical support and guidance on methodologies and approaches for greening the health sector	No. of countries with programmes on greening the health sector	0	3
	Establish national targets for environmental resource utilization, and increase efficiency of use of resources in the health sector				