

Health and environment scorecard: Aims for healthier populations

Scope

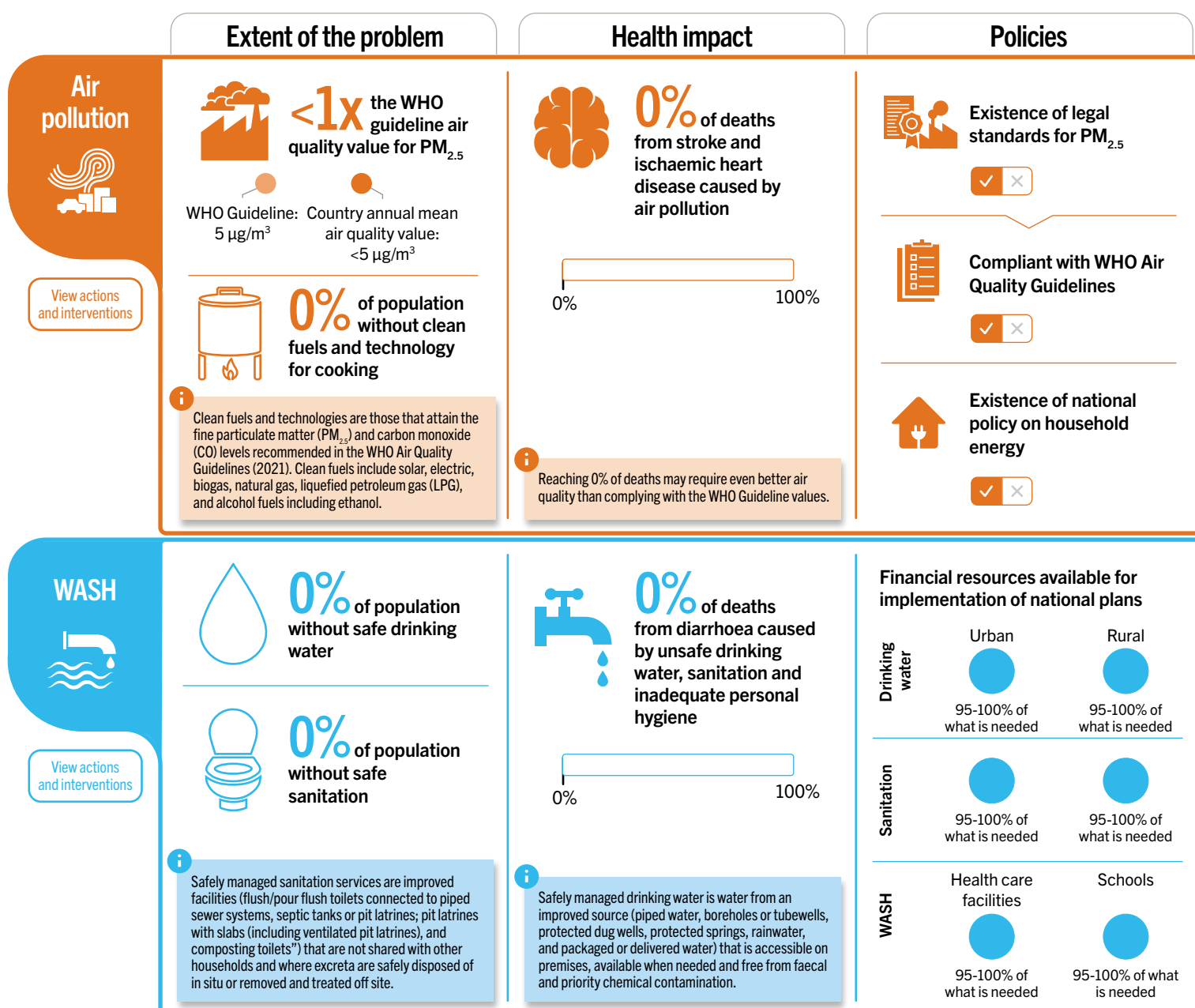
These scorecards summarize the state of health and environment in specific countries, drawing on data from the World Health Organization and other sources (see references section at the end of the scorecard). They achieve this by presenting a set of key indicators illustrating local exposure to environmental health risks, how much ill health is attributable to these risks, and which related policies have been put in place.

Aim

The scorecards aim to highlight some of the major environmental health issues at country level. This information can be used to set priorities for action to create healthier populations through healthy environments. The scorecards are limited by data availability – they may not include all areas of health and environment, or all data of concern. Lists of specific actions in each thematic area can be found in the [Compendium of WHO and other UN guidance on health and environment](#).

Reading guide

This example scorecard, entitled *Aims for healthier populations*, provides an overview of the “ideal” indicator values that countries should aspire to achieve. It is therefore useful to compare the data on a scorecard for a specific country with this example in order to assess each country’s progress and identify key areas for action. In addition to serving as a tool for comparison, this example scorecard is a “reading guide” with additional details and notes on the indicators that are not self-explanatory.



Extent of the problem

Climate change



View actions and interventions



Targets are country specific and depend on the emission scenario

Health impact



0x more heat deaths in 2050 compared to 1961-1990 period under a high emissions scenario

Policies



Existence of recent national assessment and plan



Vulnerability and adaptation assessment



Health National Adaptation plan (HNAP)



Commitment to COP26 Health Programme

Climate resilient health systems



Sustainable low carbon health systems



Net zero commitment



Inclusion of health co-benefits in Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)



Vulnerability and adaptation assessment

A climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessment (V&A) is a process and a tool that allows countries to evaluate (a) which populations and geographical areas are most vulnerable to the health risks from climate change, b) to identify weaknesses and capacities in the systems that should protect them and c) interventions to respond.

More info [here](#)



Health National Adaptation Plan

A Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP) is a plan led by the Ministry of Health, as part of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. 'HNAP' refers to the plan/document itself. More info [here](#)



Commitment to COP26 Health Programme

The UK COP26 Presidency-led Health Programme was launched in November 2021 at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). Two of its key initiatives were related to getting countries at Minister of Health level commit to strengthening the climate resilience and low carbon sustainability of their health systems.

More info [here](#)



Inclusion of health in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement demonstrate efforts of each country to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Healthy NDCs both protect climate systems and advance human health and well-being for present and future generations.

More info [here](#)

Chemicals



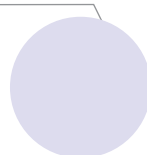
View actions and interventions



International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity score for chemical events

IHR capacity score

of **100%** for chemical events



0% not attained



NB: The IHR provide a binding legal framework that defines countries' rights and obligations in handling public health events that have the potential to cross borders.

Less than **1** out of 100,000 children under five die from poisonings every year



Existence of legal limit on lead paint



Existence of a poison centre



Party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury



Extent of the problem

Health impact

Policies

Radiation


[View actions and interventions](#)

International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity score for radiation emergencies

IHR capacity score

100%
of
for radiation
emergencies

0%
not attained



NB: The IHR provide a binding legal framework that defines countries' rights and obligations in handling public health events that have the potential to cross borders.

Less than 1 out of 100,000 people die from melanoma and other skin cancers every year

Less than 1 out of 100,000 people die from residential radon every year



Existence of standards on electromagnetic fields



Existence of regulation of artificial tanning devices/sun beds



Existence of national radon regulations for dwellings



only if the country has a radon issue

Occupational health


[View actions and interventions](#)


0% of informal employment in total employment



0% of the working age population exposed to long working hours (≥55 hours/week)

Less than 1 out of 100,000 people of working age die from diseases due to occupational risks every year

Less than 1 out of 100,000 people of working age die from injuries due to occupational risks every year



Existence of programmes for occupational health and safety of health workers



3 of 3 key international labour conventions on occupational safety and health ratified

C155
Occupational
safety and
health



C161
Occupational
health
services



C187
Promotional
framework



Health care facilities


[View actions and interventions](#)

Percentage of health care facilities without basic services

Water



0%

Sanitation



0%

Hygiene



0%

Waste management



0%



0% of health care facilities without reliable electricity supply

N/A



Climate assessment conducted for:



Climate resilience



Environmental sustainability



Existence of standards for WASH in health care facilities



Existence of standards for health care waste management



Assessment of climate resilience of at least one health care facility
Assessing the climate resilience of health care facilities in this context refers to a process whereby health planners and/or health care facility managers would assess whether a health care facility is able to respond to, recover from, adapt to, or transform from climate-related shocks and stresses while leveraging opportunities to enhance functions and services.



Assessment of environmental sustainability of at least one health care facility
Assessing the environmental sustainability of health care facilities in this context refers to assessing whether interventions aiming to decrease the environmental footprint of a health care facilities, optimizing the use of resources and minimizing the release of wastes while protecting and improving the health of their communities have been implemented at health care facility level.

References

Air pollution: WHO global air quality guidelines 2021 • WHO SDG Indicator 11.6.2 Concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}); 2019 data • WHO household air pollution data; 2019 data • WHO Air pollution data portal; health impact data for 2019 • UNEP 2021: Regulating air quality: the first global assessment of air pollution legislation; data for 2020 • WHO Household energy policy repository; data continuously updated. **WASH:** WHO, UNICEF: Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2022 data • WHO water, sanitation and hygiene: burden of disease, 2019 data • WHO GLAAS 2021/2022 cycle. **Climate change:** WHO Health and Climate Change Country Profiles • Honda et al. 2014 • Kendrovski et al. 2017 • WHO Health and Climate Change Global Survey • WHO: Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH): Country Commitments. • WHO 2023: Health in the Nationally Determined Contributions [in press]. **Chemicals:** WHO: International Health Regulations core capacity scores, 2021 data • WHO: Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisonings; data for 2019 • WHO: Legally binding controls for lead paint, updated 2022.

• WHO: World directory of poisons centres, updated 2023 • UNEP: Minamata Convention on Mercury, 2021 data. **Radiation:** WHO: International Health Regulations core capacity scores, 2021 data • WHO: Deaths from melanoma and other skin cancers, 2019 data • IHME: Deaths from residential radon, 2019 data • WHO: Electromagnetic fields, updated 2018 • WHO: Sunbeds: Existence of national regulations, updated 2021 • WHO: Existence of national radon regulations, 2019 data. **Occupational health:** ILOSTAT: Statistics on the informal economy, updated 2023 • WHO: Disease burden from long working hours, 2016 data • WHO/ILO: Joint estimates of the work-related burden of disease and injury, 2016 data • WHO: Existence of national policy instruments for occupational health and safety for health workers, 2021 data • ILO ratifications of C155, C161 and C187, updated 2023. **Health care facilities:** WHO/UNICEF 2022: Progress on WASH in health care facilities 2000–2021 • WHO: Database on electrification of health-care facilities, updated 2022 • WHO: Health and Climate Change Global Survey • WHO/UNICEF Country progress tracker, updated 2022.

The scorecards are based on already published data (see references). They are a tool to measure and track the progress of Member States with respect to selected indicators and are not intended for ranking.