Health and sustainability - environment and health
WHO Regional Office for Europe Perspective

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What is sustainability?

• “Meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

Bruntland Report 1987
What’s new?

The 2030 Agenda and its Goals are:

- **Universal** = Relevant to all countries, developing & developed
- **Transformative** = Human rights-based, addressing governance & local dimension, focused on equity and on reaching those hardest to access, inclusive (“leave no one behind”)
- **Involving new actors**, including private sector and civil society
- **Silo breaker** = Require collaboration of different sectors
Health is central to development

Health and well-being are an outcome, a determinant and an enabler of the Goals.
Where are we?
What needs to be done?
“Public health is wrapped around the reality of change”

Rayner & Lang (2012)
Sustainable Development Goals and Health and Environment

Impetus is set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
Health and well-being linked to environmental and work-related factors are outcomes, determinants and enablers of sustainable development.
Disease burden

1.4 million deaths in the WHO European Region are caused by environmental risks, corresponding to at least 15% of Europe’s total deaths.

50% of these deaths are due to outdoor and indoor air pollution.

50 m

In Europe, environmental risk factors are responsible for around 26% of ischemic heart disease, 25% of strokes, and 17% of cancers.

Cardiovascular deaths and diseases from environmental exposures are 3 times higher in lower-middle-income countries than high-income countries.

In the WHO European Region, diarrheal diseases cause an estimated 14 deaths per day due to inadequate WaSH (water, sanitation, and hygiene).

Diarrheal diseases can be prevented through:
- safely managed drinking-water
- adequate sanitation and safely managed wastewater disposal
- good handwashing practices.

Ostrava Declaration

Declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

Annex 1: Compendium of possible actions to advance the implementation of the Ostrava Declaration

Priority areas:
- Air pollution
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Chemicals
- Waste and contaminated sites
- Climate change
- Cities
- Environmentally sustainable health systems
Policy Action Areas for Increasing Equity in health

- **The living environment**
  - Affordable good housing and access to basic services
  - Outdoor environment / Transport/ Green spaces
  - Climate change

- **Personal and community capabilities**
  - Early childhood development/ Education & Lifelong Learning
  - Community cohesion and social participation

- **Employment and working conditions**
  - Inclusive investment
  - Active Labor Market Policies
  - Working conditions

- **Social Protection**
  - Social transfers
  - Health and social care services
Four enablers for SDG implementation:

- Investments for health
- Multi-partner cooperation
- Health literacy, research, innovation
- Monitoring and evaluation
HEALTH 2020
A European policy framework and strategy for the 21st century

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD
THE 2020 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. NO POVERTY
2. ZERO HUNGER
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4. QUALITY EDUCATION
5. GENDER EQUALITY

6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13. CLIMATE ACTION
14. LIFE BELOW WATER
15. LIFE ON LAND
16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

World Health Organization
Organisation mondiale de la Santé
Weltgesundheitsorganisation
Всемирная организация здравоохранения
Why are investments in health at the same time the investments in well-being?

High returns for public health investments

• Every £1 invested in public health, £14 return to the wider health and economy
• Reducing health inequality by 1% a year increases annual rate of GDP growth by 0.15%

Health promotion and preventions works

• 10% reduction in heart diseases saves €20 billion annually in lower an middle income countries
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