Health, environment and sustainable development:

Arab Environment 8 - Sustainable Consumption in the Arab Countries
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WHO estimated that about 24% of the overall burden of disease in the Arab World is caused by *modifiable environmental risk factors (not including food contamination)*:

- more than 500,000 annual premature deaths = 1 premature death every minute
- 20 million DALLYs are lost every year = 21 healthy days are being lost from the life of every Arab Annually
- How much is this in terms of development and money???
Modifiable environmental risk factors, including:

- Lack of access to improved drinking water and sanitation services
- Outdoor and Indoor Air pollution
- Wastes Management
- Exposure to Chemicals
- Emergencies
- Occupational and injuries
- Climate Change

50%
Cost Effective Interventions Exist

- Waste Management and Rational Consumption
- Access to Safe Drinking Water
- Healthy and Energy Efficient
- Clean Energies and Technologies
- Healthy workplaces
- Sustainable and safe Food
- Air Quality Management
- Health Care
- Water
- Housing
- Jobs
- Energy
- Cities
- Food
All SDGs have the potential to improve health...

However to harness the most health benefits from the SDGs, routine data collection on the health impacts of the SDGs related policies is essential.

As part of its mandate, WHO monitors environmental determinants of health including access to improve water/sanitation, air quality, access to clean energy in the home, exposure to radiation, occupational health risks, and the health impacts of climate change.
Challenges

• In order to harness development opportunities associated with investments made in different sectors that have direct influence over environmental determinants of health, governments must adopt integrated and multi-sectoral approaches to policy development. In many cases, however, health and environment ministries and agencies are not primarily responsible for such policies.

• Institutional capacity for environment, health and sustainable development particularly within government agencies can be limited

• Research is Lacking
Opportunities

• There are ongoing political processes on health and environment that offer key anchor points and frameworks for in-country action on environmental determinants of health.

• Several environmental, health and development international and regional agreements are already in place

• SDGs
Call for Action

• Providing special interest groups and forums for synchronizing and exchanging health, environment, and development data
• Supporting related sectors for country engagement in key global, regional and national relevant inter-sectoral initiatives and political processes
• Helping governments implement evidence-based norms and standards
• Catalyzing country-level research to address critical knowledge gaps
• Helping governments monitor national progress in meeting agreed sustainable development objectives and targets