

Health, environment and sustainable development:

Arab Environment 8 - Sustainable Consumption in the Arab Countries

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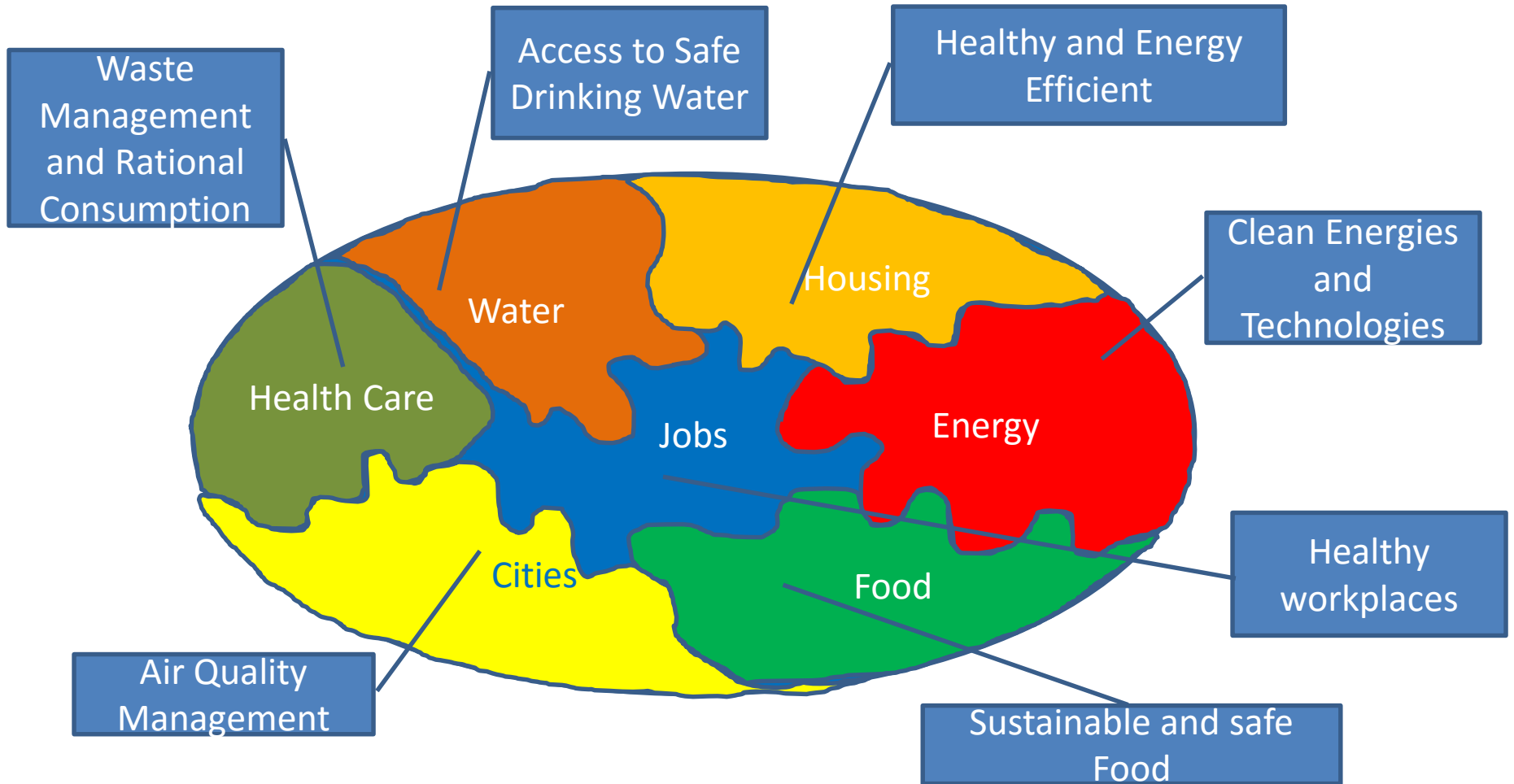
WHO estimated that about 24% of the overall burden of disease in the Arab World is caused by *modifiable environmental risk factors (not including food contamination)*:

- 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



Sustainable Development Goals & Health

All SDGs have the potential to improve health...

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

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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

