



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN ARAB COUNTRIES
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OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SITUATION IN THE ARAB REGION

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Global Perspectives on Health, Environment and Climate Change

- **No healthy community in a contaminated environment**, nor clean environment in an unhealthy community (Health equity is intimate linked to socio-economic equality and environmental justice)
- **One quarter of disease burden** caused by unhealthy environment Through health protection and promotion, preventive action in relevant sectors and healthy living can manage environmental risks on health.
- **COVID-19 and clean environment**: an opportunity for resilient green recovery.
- The traditional therapeutic approaches that focus on treatment individual diseases/symptoms, rather than **improvement of determinants of health**, is insufficient to reduce modern environmental health risks.
- About **10%** of global gross domestic product (**GDP**) is being spent on healthcare, but less than **0.5%** goes on primary **prevention**.



WHO strategy on Health & the Environment

- **Scaling up primary prevention:** Effective and equitable action will be put in place on the drivers of environmental risks to health.
- **Cross-sectoral action:** Address health determinants in policies in all sectors.
- **Strengthen the health sector:** Leadership and coordination roles, working together with other sectors.
- **Building support:** Strengthen governance mechanisms and create a demand for healthy environments.
- **New evidence:** Evidence-based communication and building the case for influencing investments.

Arab Environmental Health Priorities

The Regional Strategy & Guideline of Action Outlined (9) nine health and environment priorities:

- Water, Sanitation and Health
- Air Pollution
- Food Safety
- Chemical Safety
- Wastes Management and Environmental Health Services
- Environmental Health Emergency Management
- Climate Change and Health
- Sustainable Development and Health
- Occupational Health and Safety

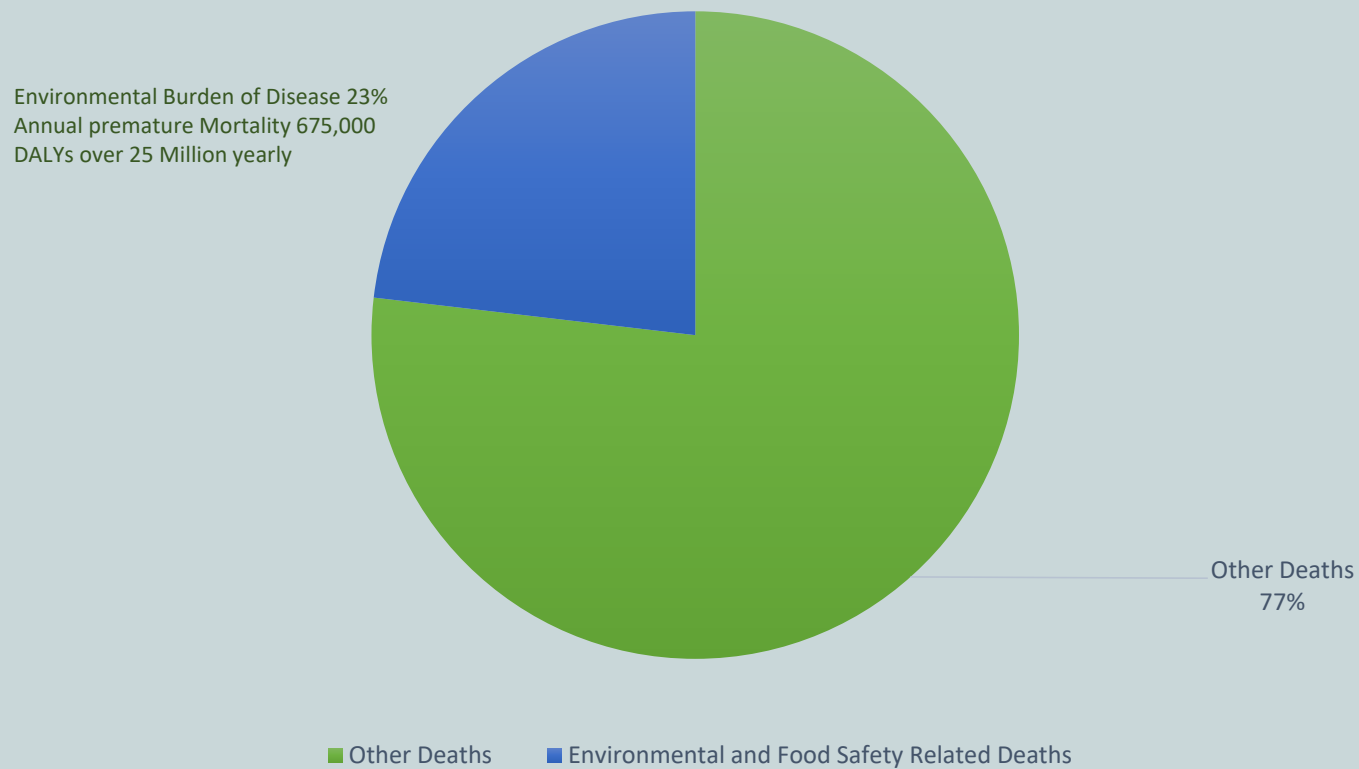
	Water, sanitation & Hygiene	Indoor air pollution	2nd hand tobacco smoke	Outdoor air pollution	Noise	Chemicals	Housing risks	Recreational environment	Water resources	Built environment & Housing	Other community risks	Radiation	Occupation	Climate change
1. Ischemic Heart Disease		x	x	x	x	x				x			x	x
2. Stroke		x	x	x	x	x				x			x	x
3. Diarrheal Diseases	x							x	x					x
4. Respiratory infections		x	x	x			x							
5. Cancers		x	x	x		x					x	x	x	
6. Traffic injuries				x							x		x	
7. Neonatal Conditions		x	x	x		x								
8. COPD		x		x									x	
9. Drownings								x			x		x	x
10. Tuberculosis		x					x						x	

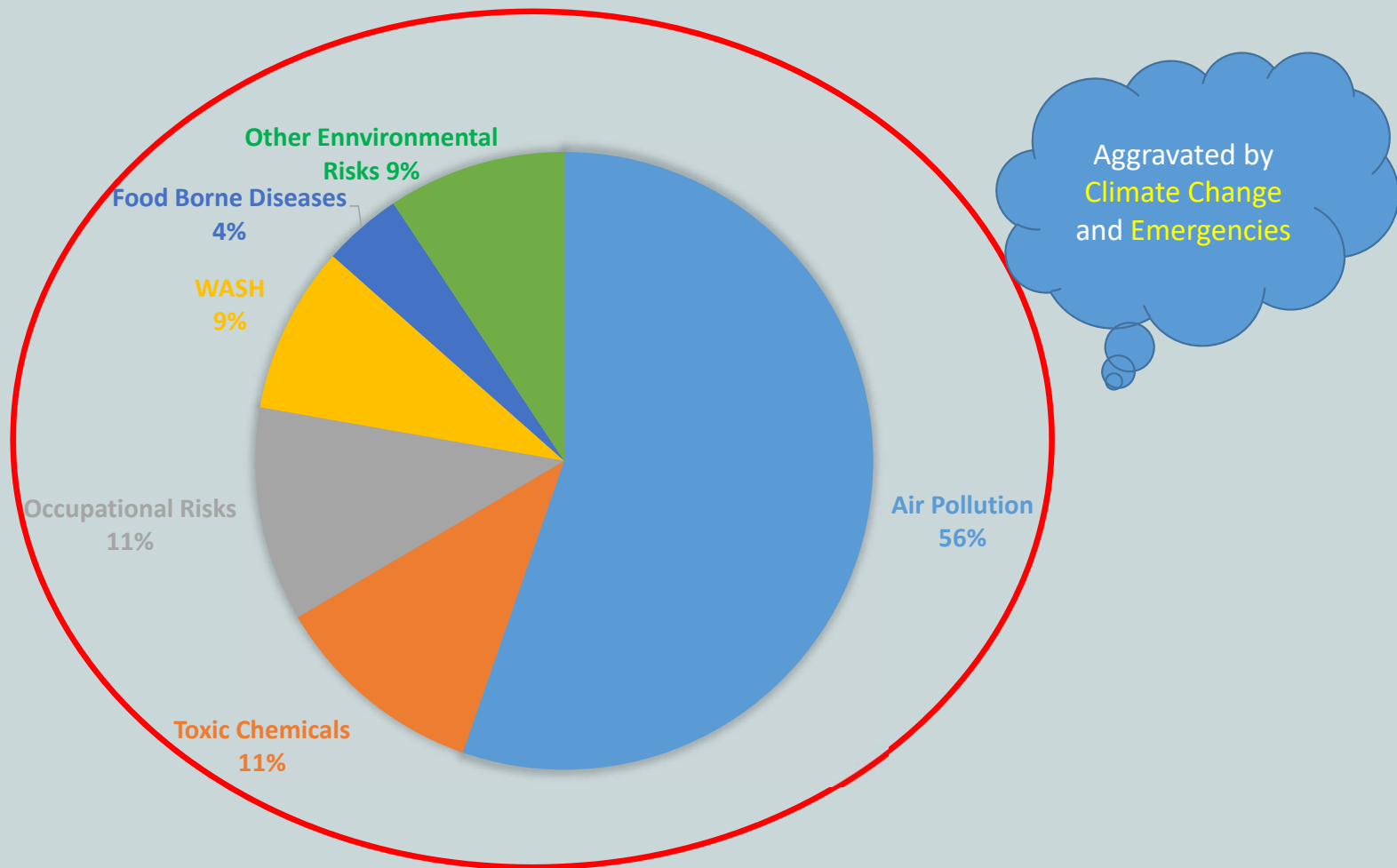
Arab Countries Groupings & Environmental Health Priorities

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3 & 4
Income	High	Middle	Low
Level of Service	Good	Endeavoring	Lacking
Environmental Health and Food Safety Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Pollution • Exposure to Chemicals • Occupational Risks • Climate Change • Food Safety (Chemical Hazards) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH • Air Pollution • Exposure to chemicals and wastes • Occupational Risks • EH services in Emergencies • Climate Change • Food Safety (Biological and Chemical Hazards) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH • Air Pollution • Exposure to wastes • EH services in Emergencies • Climate Change • Food Safety (Biological and Chemical Hazards)

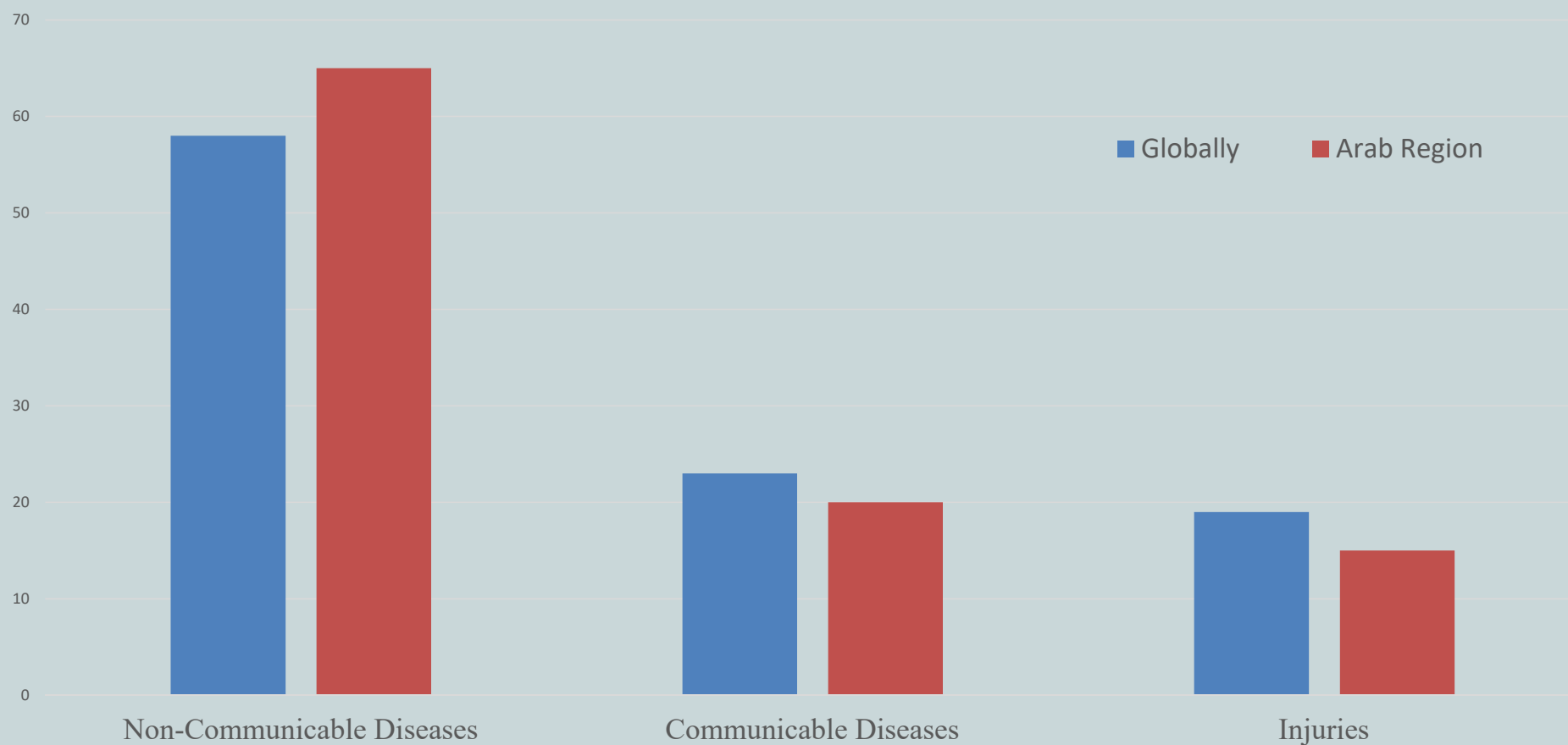
Projected Impact of Environmental Risks on Health:	G1	G2	G3, G4
Communicable Diseases CDs	*	**	****
Non-Communicable Diseases NCDs	****	***	**
Injuries	***	***	***

Mortality Attributable to Environmental and Food Safety Risks

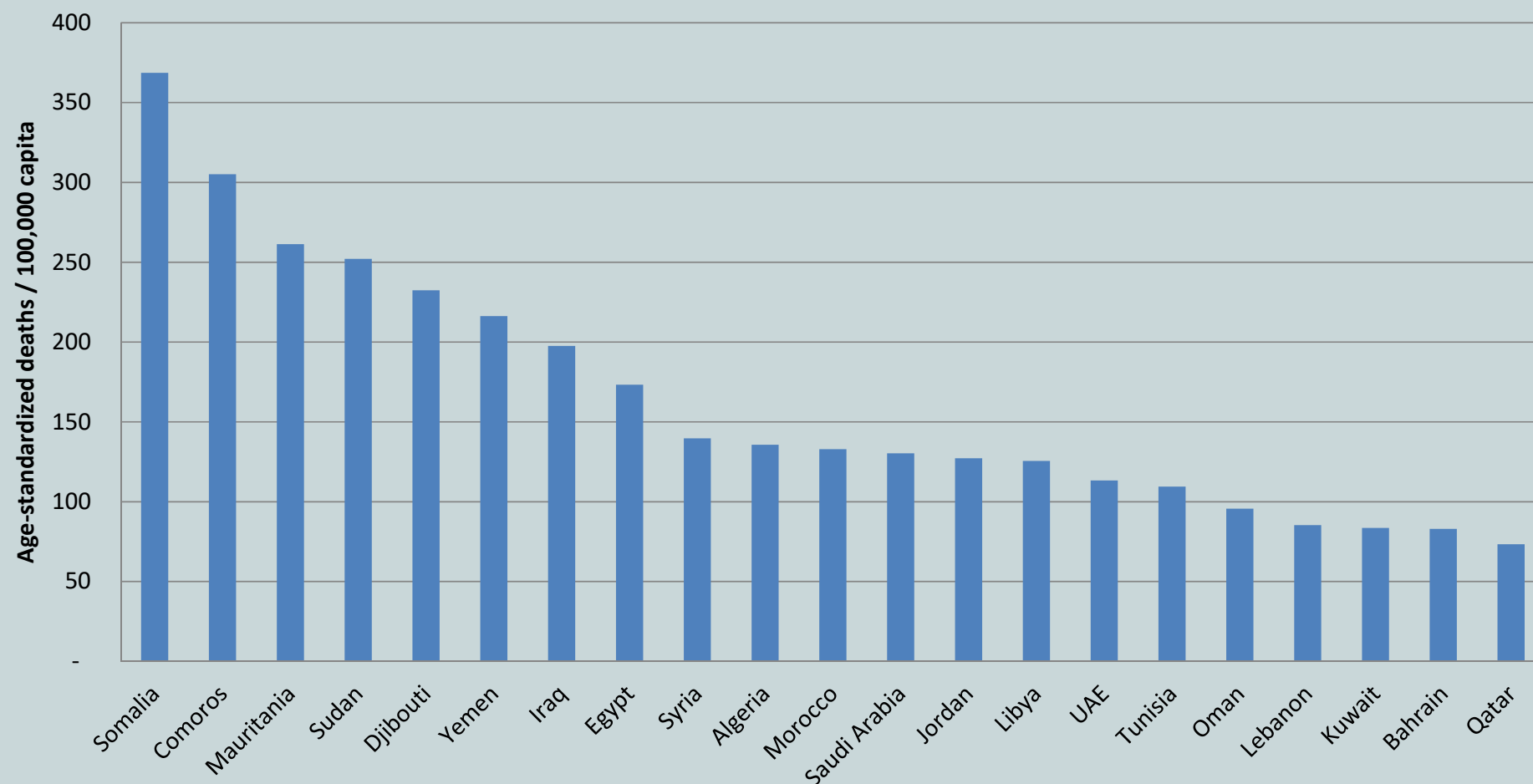




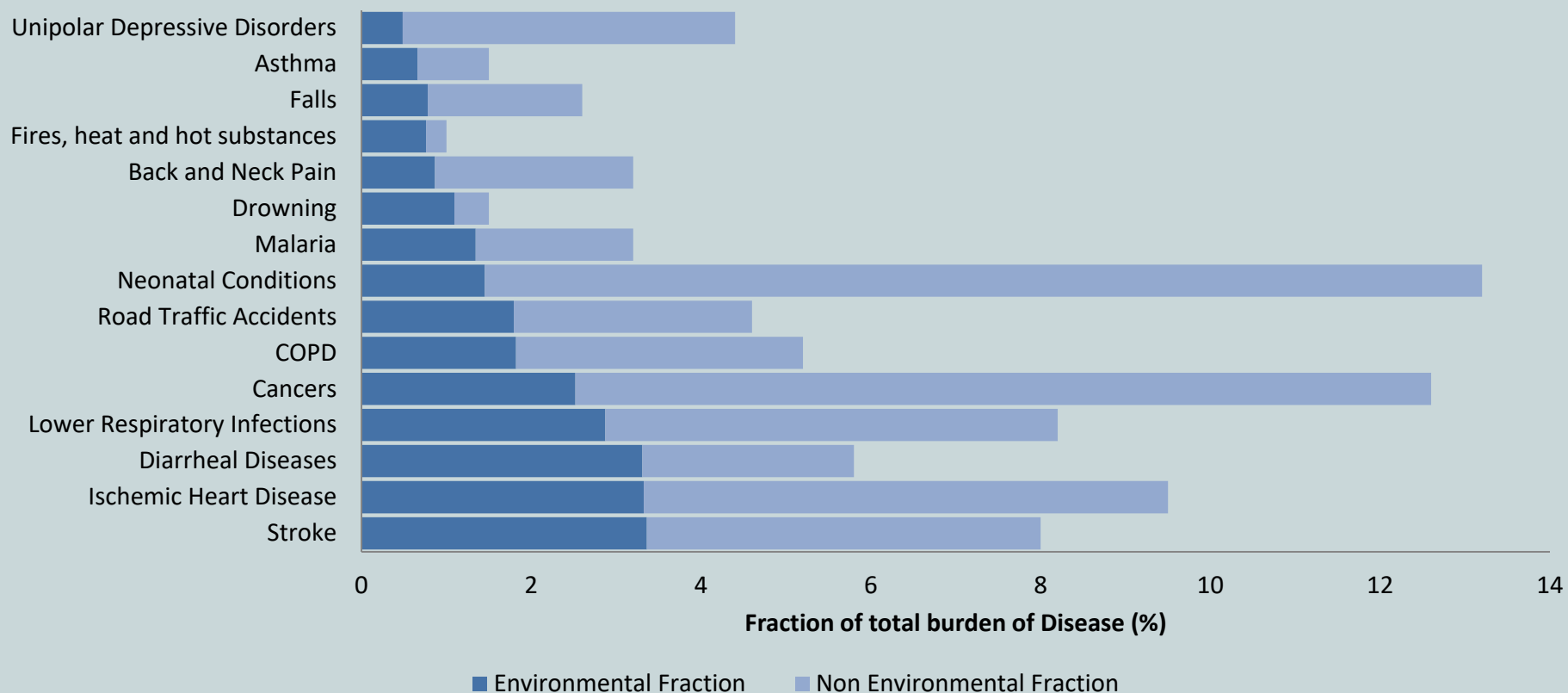
Causes of death attributable to the environment in the world and the Arab Region



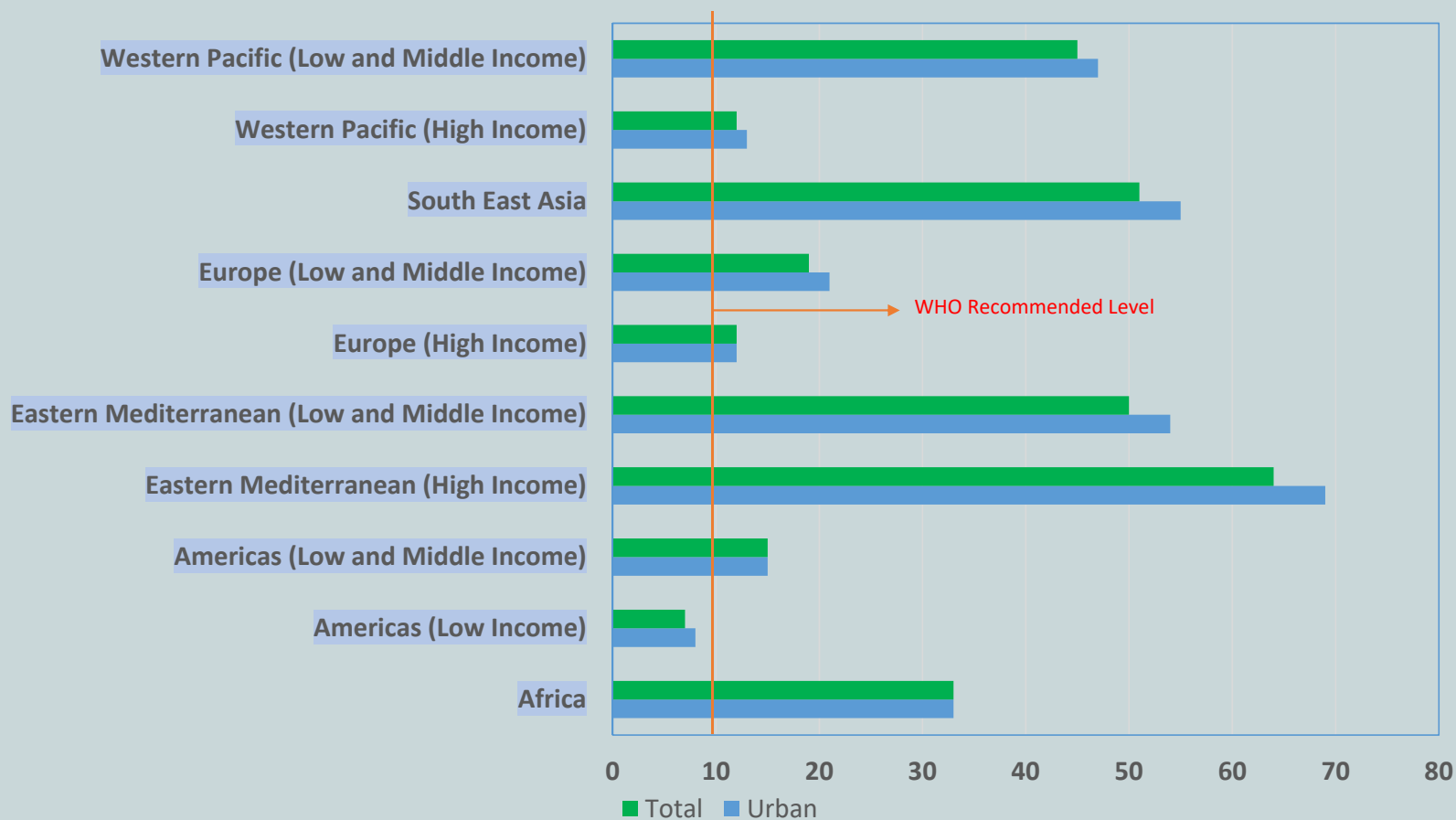
Annual Deaths Attributable to Environmental Risks

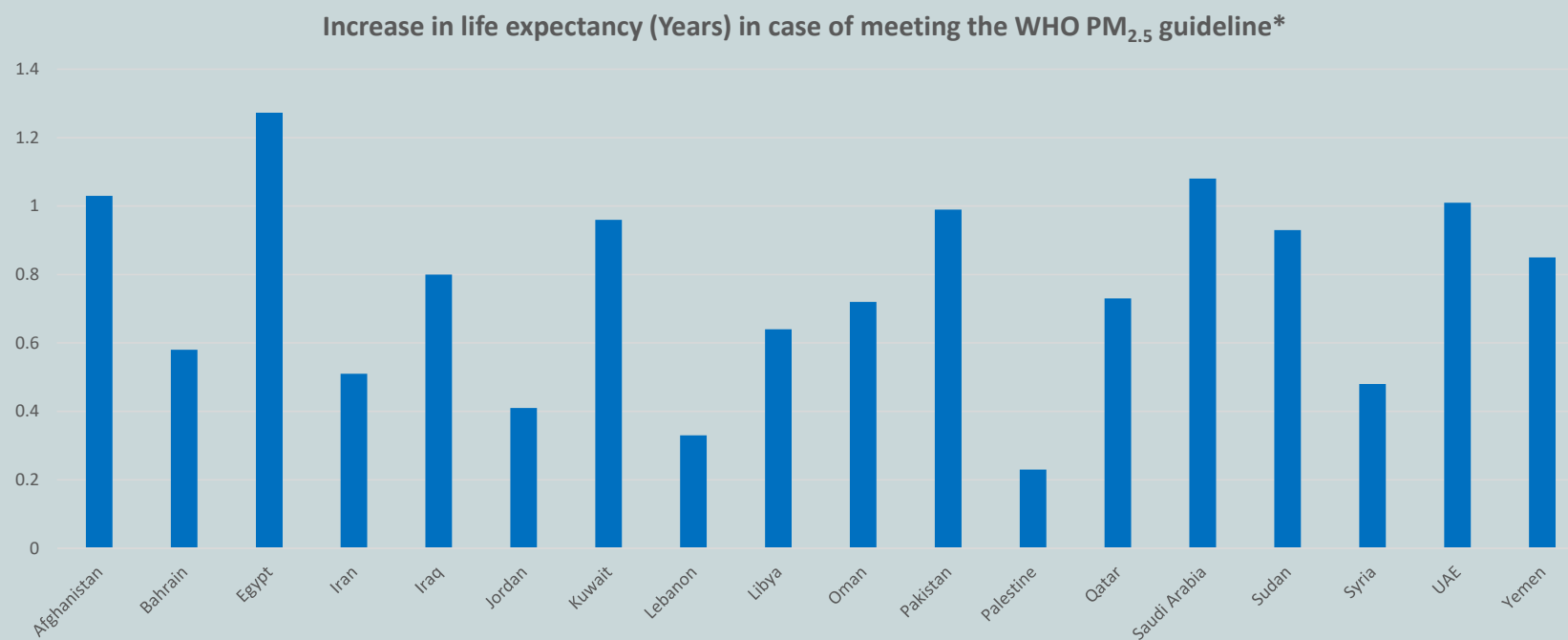


Diseases with strongest linkages with Environmental Risks

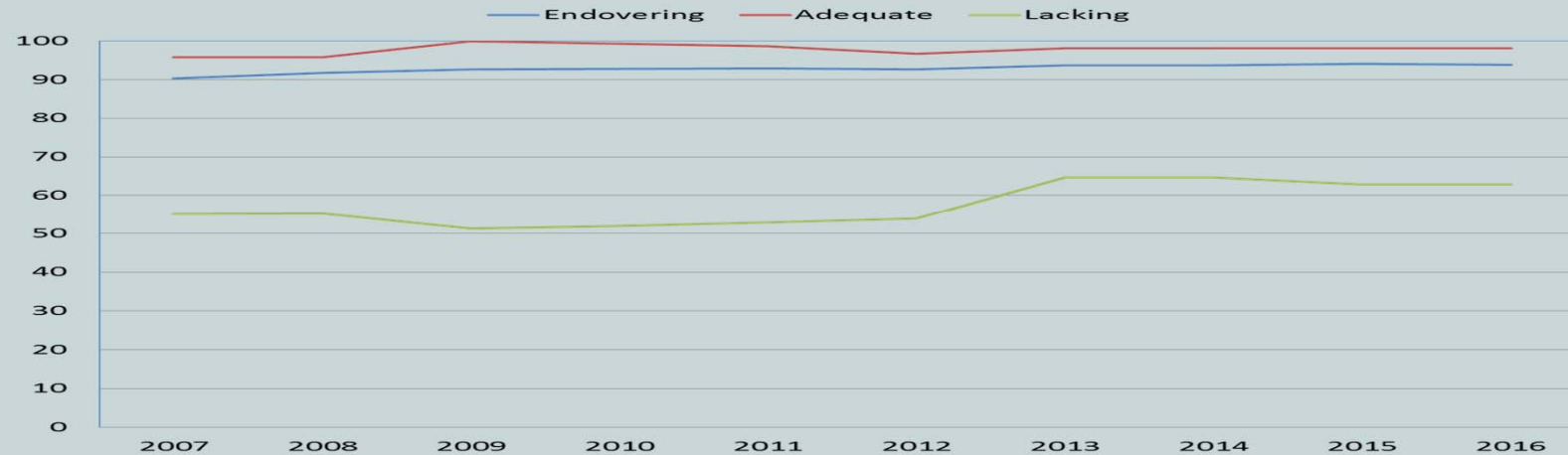
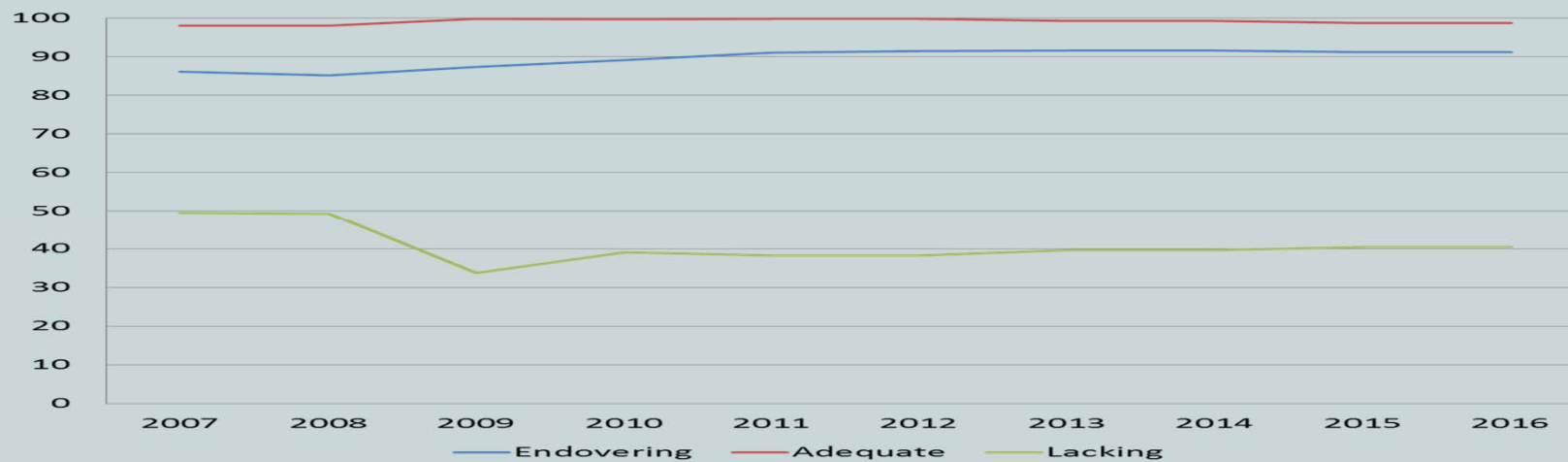


Annual average (population-weighted) exposure to outdoor fine particulate matter air pollution (PM2.5) in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, 2016



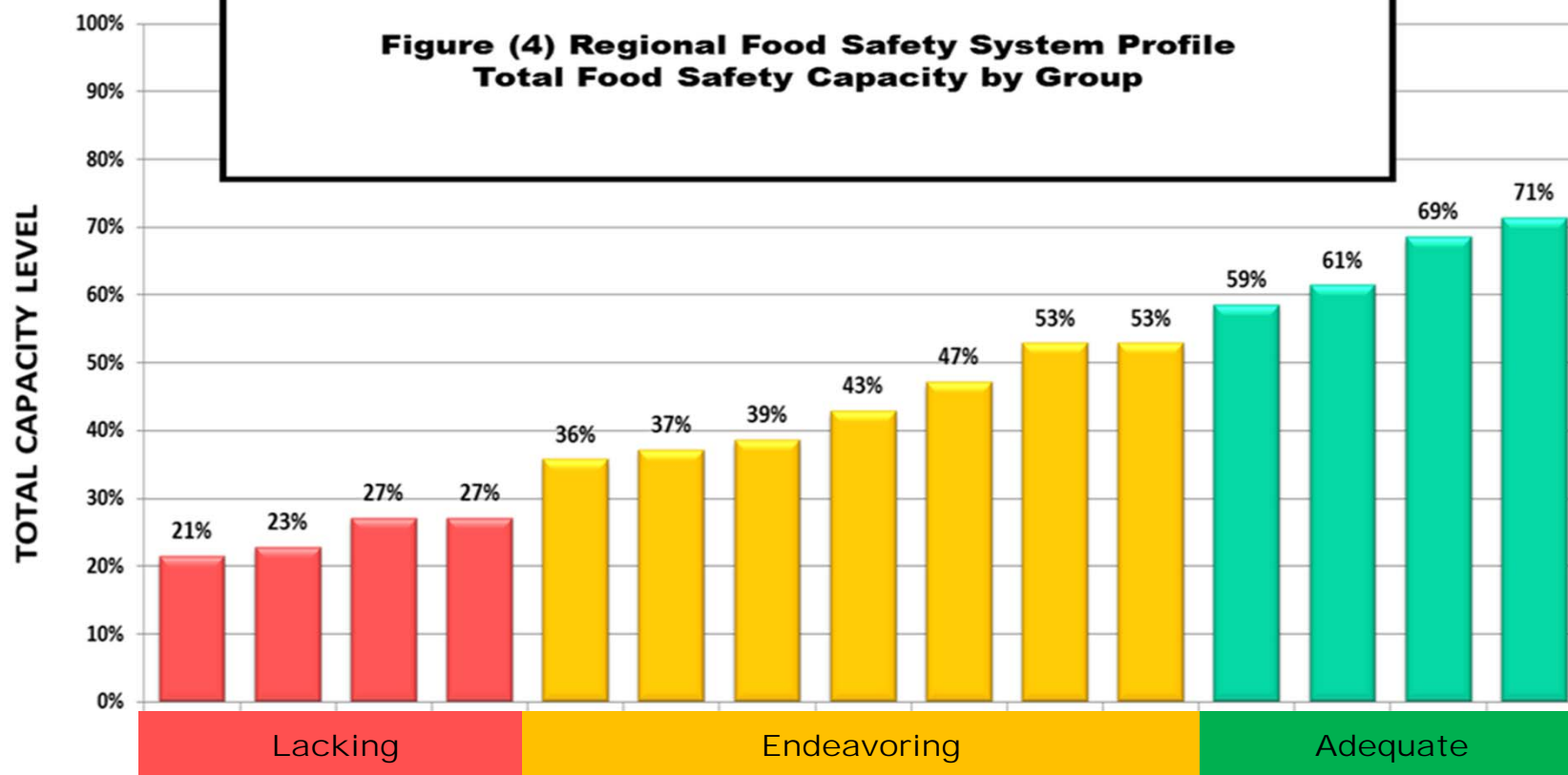


***Apte, J.S., et al., Ambient PM_{2.5} reduces global and regional life expectancy. Environmental Science & Technology Letters, 2018. 5(9): p. 546-551**

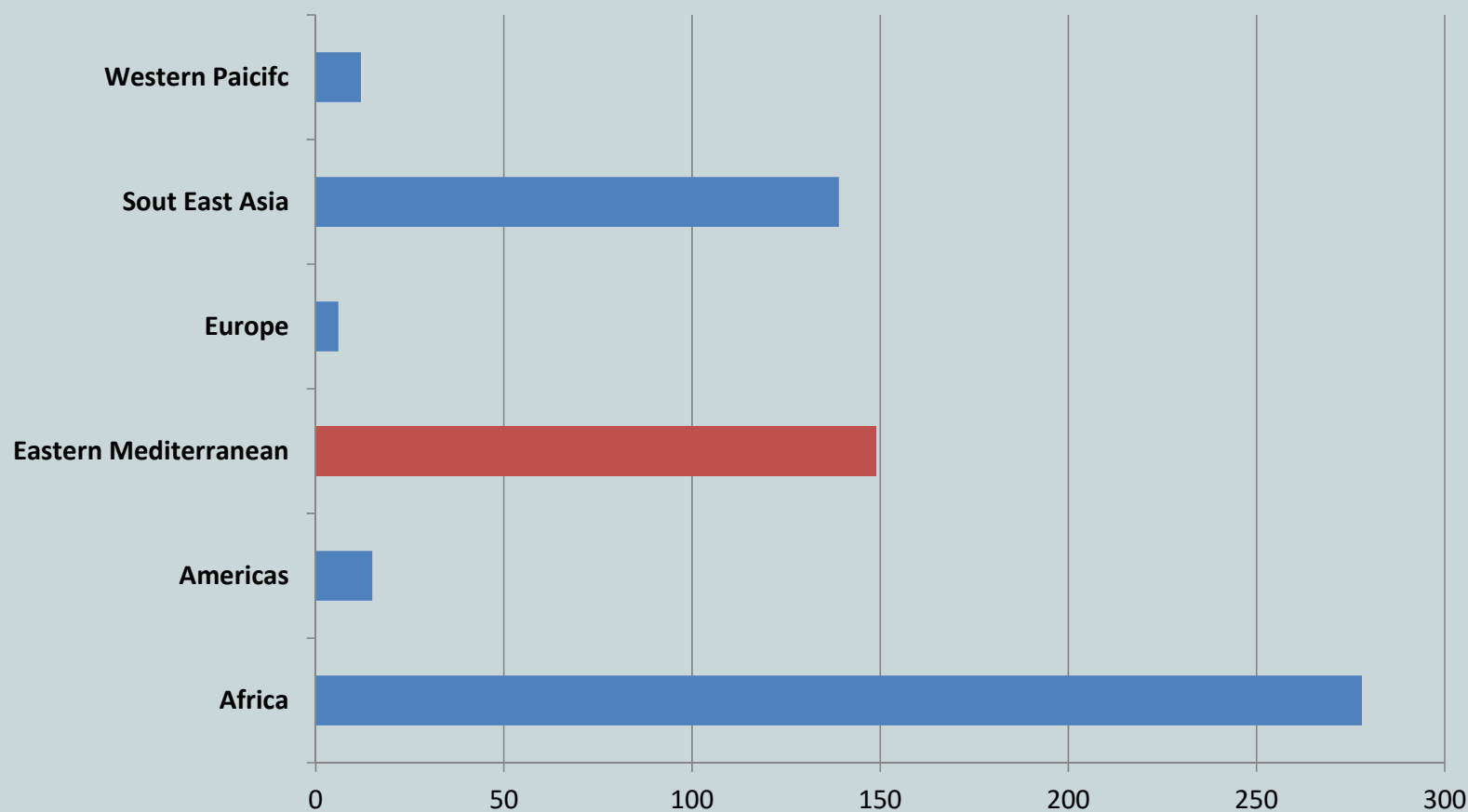
Access to Potable Water (%) in EMR Country Groups**Access to Adequate Sanitation (%) in EMR Country Groups**

50 million have
No access to
basic drinking
water services;
74 million
have no access
to basic
sanitation
services, and
25 million are
still practicing
open
defecation.

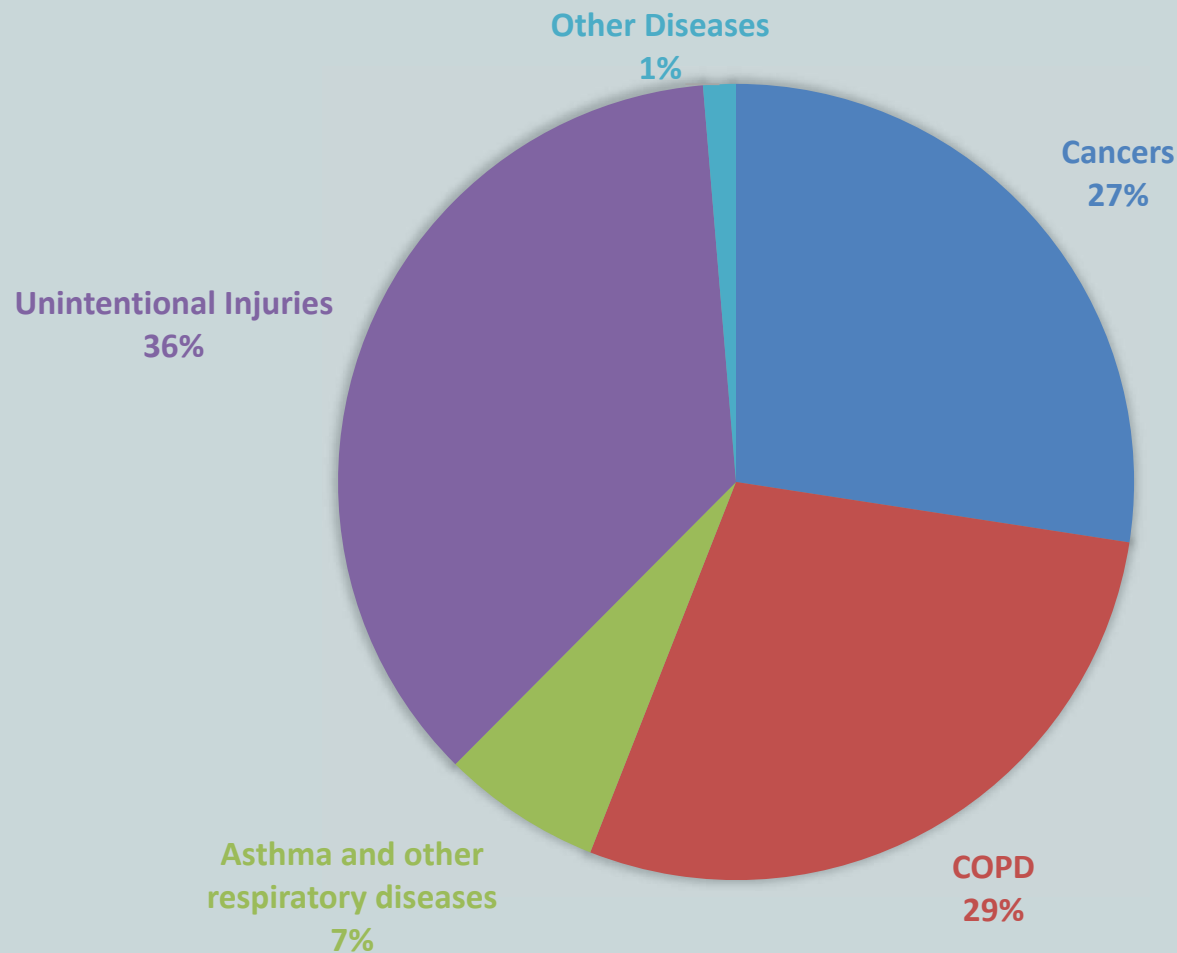
**Figure (4) Regional Food Safety System Profile
Total Food Safety Capacity by Group**



Health Burden attributable to climate change



Deaths attributable to occupational risks by disease



Opportunities Outlook

WHO GPW13-SDGs Agenda 2030 **targets and indicators** relevant to the Health and Environment for WHO, globally:

- Reduce the mortality rate attributed to household and ambient **air pollution by 5%**
- Reduce mortality from **climate-sensitive diseases by 10%**
- Provide access to safely managed **drinking water services for 1 billion** more people
- Provide access to safely managed **sanitation services for 800 million more people**

Thank You

