

The effects of pollution on health: Social determinants and the impact on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)

Geneva Health Forum 2022

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The NCD agenda: What binds us

DISEASES



Cardiovascular Disease



Chronic Respiratory Diseases



Cancer



Diabetes



Mental and Neurological Conditions

RISK FACTORS



Unhealthy Diet



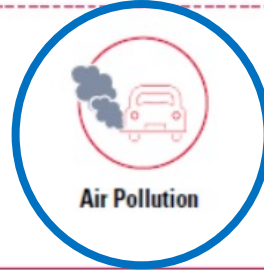
Tobacco Use



Harmful Use of Alcohol



Physical Inactivity



Air Pollution

Reduce MODIFIABLE RISK FACTORS



Expand coverage of ESSENTIAL MEDICINES AND TECHNOLOGIES



Improve SURVEILLANCE



Strengthen HEALTH SYSTEMS



Increase FUNDING



Multisectoral partnerships



The NCD agenda: A decade of political commitments

1

1st High-Level Meeting (HLM) on NCDs
2011 UN Political Declaration (PD) on NCDs

2011

2

Global Action Plan & Monitoring Framework
"25 by 25" NCD targets and indicators

2013

3

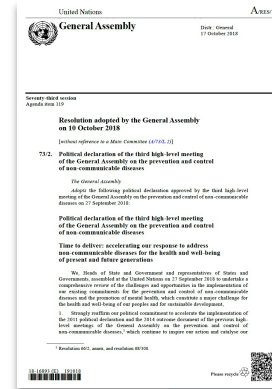
2nd HLM on NCDs
2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs

2014

4

2030 Agenda
Adoption of SDGs

2015



5

3rd HLM on NCDs
2018 UN PD on NCDs refers to indoor and outdoor air pollution as a main NCD risk factor

2018

6

1st HLM on UHC
2019 UN PD on UHC refers to environmental determinants

2019

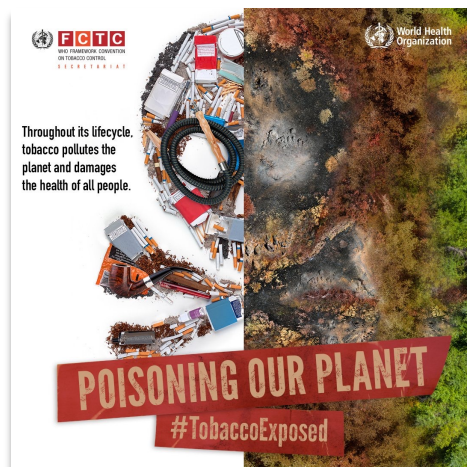


Pollution across NCD risk factors & social determinants

- **Air pollution**, a main modifiable NCD risk factor, as part of the “5 by 5 NCD agenda”
- **Other NCD risk factors** are interlinked with multiple forms of pollution:
 - Co-benefits in addressing **unhealthy diets** as part of broader efforts to reform food systems
 - Co-benefits in promoting **physical activity** by encouraging walking and cycling in cities
 - Co-benefits in reducing **tobacco use**

A cycle of poverty, air pollution and ill health

- People are exposed to higher levels of air pollutants in **Africa, Asia and the Middle East**
- People with low socioeconomic status often take jobs with **high occupational air pollution exposure**
- Marginalized groups are more likely to **live in areas with more traffic or sources** of air pollution
- Marginalized groups are less likely to have **access to safe cooking technologies and fuels**
- **Women and children** are especially at risk because they spend more time indoors



Air pollution and its associations with NCDs

AIR POLLUTION CAUSES



7 million deaths
every year worldwide

- Air pollution includes **ambient pollution** and **household pollution**
- Focus on air pollutants that have a **direct impact on human health**



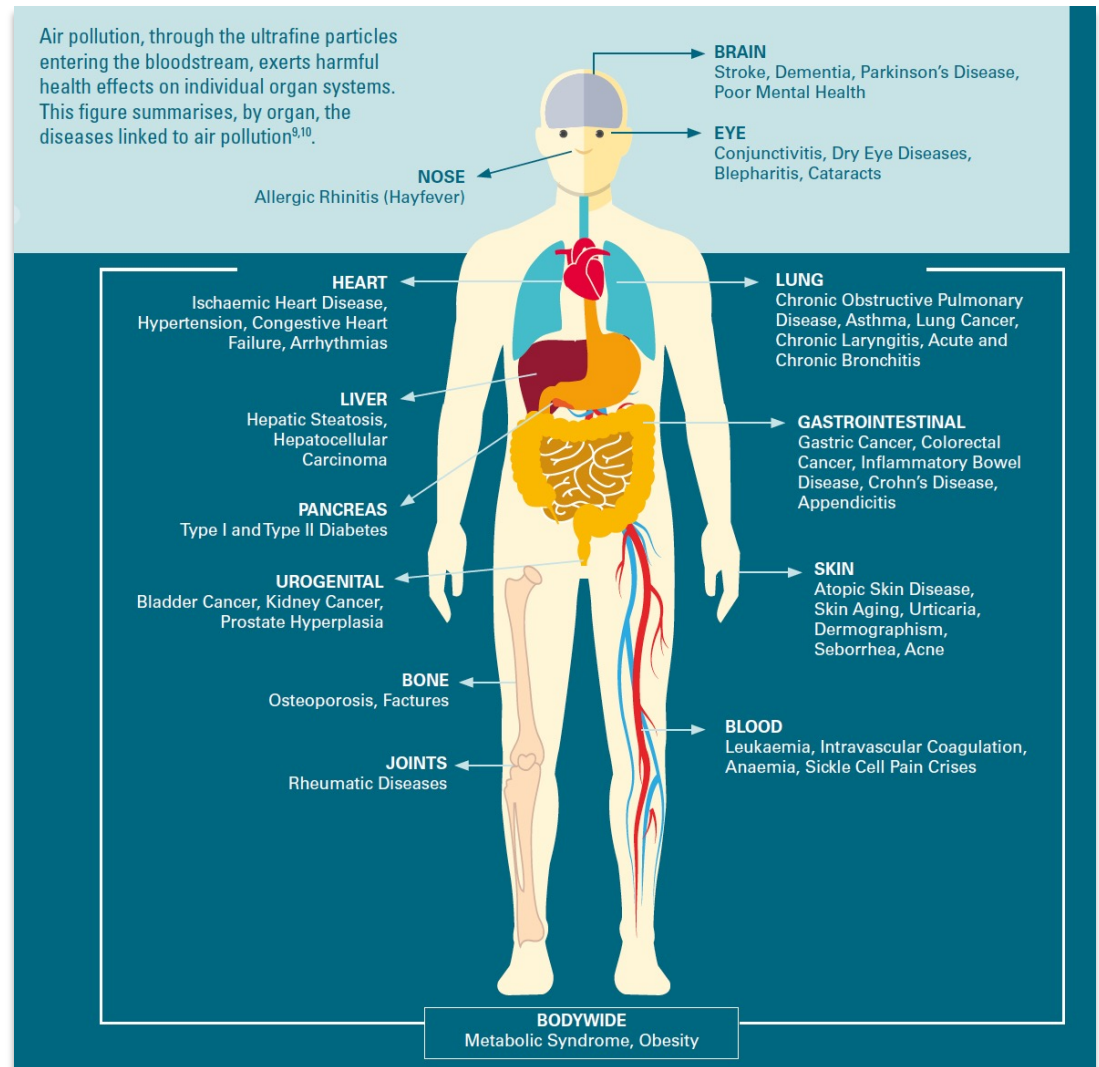
World Health Organization (WHO) @WHO

Shocking!

99% - or almost the entire world's population breathes air with unhealthy levels of fine particulate matter & nitrogen dioxide, and threatens their health.

More: bit.ly/3uW6wfC

#HealthierTomorrow




Source: NCD Alliance, FIRS. [Our right to health, our right to clean air: Improving air quality to address NCDs](#). Geneva: NCD Alliance, 2019.

A multisectoral & human-rights approach to (air) pollution



OUR RIGHT TO HEALTH, OUR RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR
Improving air quality to address NCDs

 Irmina Kotiuk
April 18th 2022

A new frontier: using human rights law to fight for healthy air in the courts

Ella Kissi-Debrah: how a mother's fight for justice may help prevent other air pollution deaths

Landmark ruling that toxic fumes killed nine-year-old Londoner follows long campaign for truth



Ella Kissi-Debrah died in February 2013 after a severe asthma attack. Photograph: Hollie Adams/AFP/Getty Images

The harm caused by air pollution is more dependent on one's postal code than one's genetic code.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BREATHE CLEAN AIR.

 UN Human Rights Council
@UN_HRC

BREAKING

UN Human Rights chief Michelle Bachelet hails landmark recognition by the UN Human Rights Council that having a healthy environment is a human right.

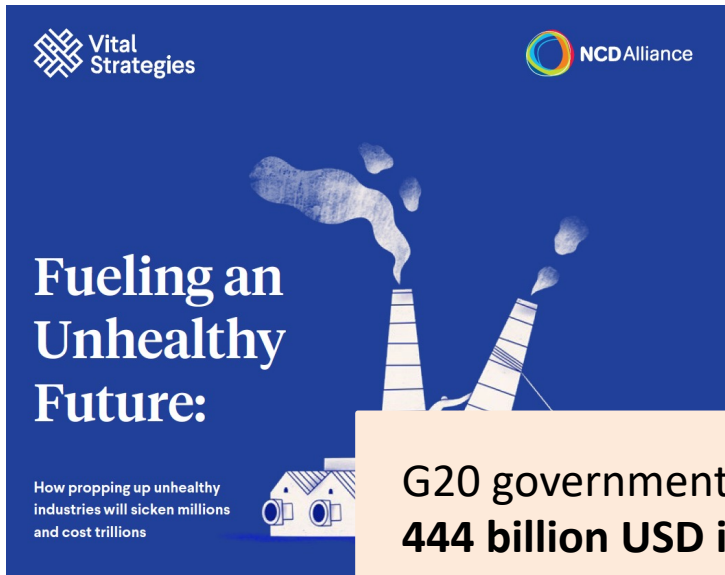
[ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/...](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/)



4:59 pm · 8 Oct 2021 · Twitter Web App

Commercial determinants – a key implementation challenge for clean air

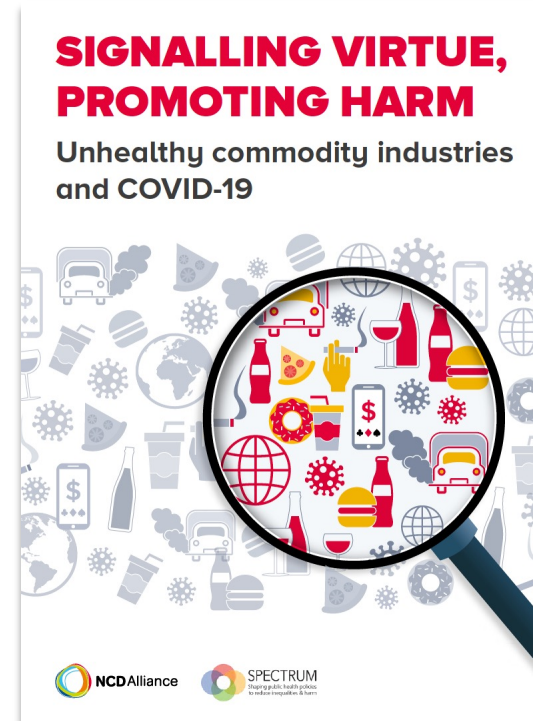
Health-harmful subsidies



G20 governments paid out **444 billion USD in subsidies** to fossil fuel companies (2014), while the use of fossil fuels resulted in **estimated health costs of 2.76 trillion USD !**

Source: [HEAL](#), 2017

Industry interference



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
OF PETROLEUM PRODUCERS

Canada's Oil and Natural Gas Producers

Climate > News

Oil lobby group asks for environmental laws to be suspended due to coronavirus

Letter recommends wide-range of delays, suspensions and changes relating to pollution monitoring, migratory birds, climate change and indigenous rights

Louise Boyle New York • Friday 17 April 2020 20:29 • Comments



Building back better?



Source: [The Independent](#), 2022

NCD Alliance key messages on air pollution

Air pollution reduction can have almost immediate benefits for health

ADOPT AND STRICTLY ENFORCE EMISSION STANDARDS FOR ALL POLLUTANTS in all relevant sectors, including industry, energy, transport, waste and agriculture.

INCLUDE AIR QUALITY MEASURES in urban, rural and transport planning at city, regional and national level, including measures to encourage modal shift and active mobility, noting the additional benefits to health and wellbeing, the curbing of climate change, and the reduction of health inequalities.

RAPIDLY PHASE OUT HEALTH-HARMFUL SUBSIDIES for fossil fuels and polluting industries and introduce penalties for polluters and/or taxes on pollution.

REDIRECT INVESTMENT TO HEALTH-PROMOTING, accessible alternatives including clean transport and renewable energy, and towards the provision of universal health coverage.

IMPROVE HOUSING CONDITIONS and ensure access to clean energy sources for indoor cooking, heating and lighting.

BURNING PROBLEMS, INSPIRING SOLUTIONS
Sharing lessons on action against tobacco and fossil fuels

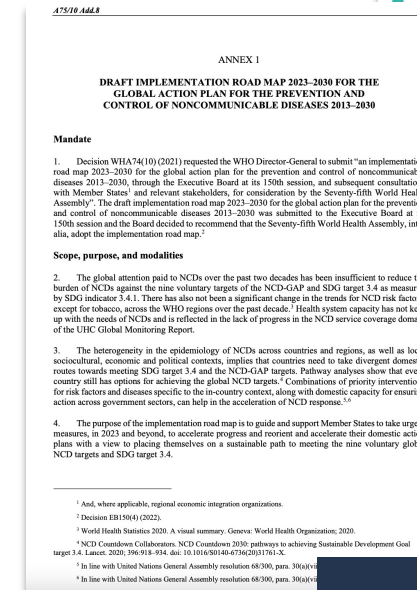
CLEAN AIR NOW
Rapid solutions to the AIR POLLUTION EMERGENCY

Windows of opportunity for air pollution policy

- **NCD implementation road map 2023-2030** (for adoption at **WHA76, 2023**; outline to be approved at **WHA75, 2022**)
- **WHO ‘Best Buys’** and other recommended interventions on (ambient) air pollution (for adoption at **WHA76, 2023**)
- Updated **WHO report and operational framework on Social Determinants of Health** (for adoption at **WHA76, 2023**)
- **2nd UN HLM on UHC (2023) & 4th UN HLM on NCDs (2025)** – including 2024 progress report of the UN Secretary-General on NCD prevention and control
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – monitoring the **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** by Parties of the **Paris Agreement**
- **Post-2030 Agenda** on Sustainable Development
- **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**



TACKLING NCDs



**FOSSIL
FUEL
NON-PROLIFERATION
TREATY**

THANK YOU

SHARE. DISCUSS. ENGAGE. CHANGE.



#ActOnNCDs

#NCDs

@ncdalliance



MAKING NCD PREVENTION AND CONTROL A PRIORITY, EVERYWHERE

For more background, please do not hesitate to contact me at larnanz@ncdalliance.org