

# AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

2021-2030

Climate Change and Environmental Determinants of Health  
Communicable Diseases and Environmental Determinants of Health.



## HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Equity at the heart of environmental public health.

Environmental public health is the branch of public health that addresses global, regional, national, and subnational environmental factors that influence human health, including physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and their related behaviors.

## HEALTH IMPACT ATTRIBUTED TO KNOWN AND AVOIDABLE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN THE AMERICAS

**13%**

of premature deaths in high-income countries

**19%**

of premature deaths in low- and middle-income countries

**1,016,000**

premature deaths per year



**Air pollution:** Linked to approximately 250,000 premature deaths in LAC due to stroke, heart disease, lung disease, and cancer.



**Contaminated water and inadequate sanitation:** In LAC, Over 19 million people do not have at least basic drinking water services and nearly 84 million people have inadequate sanitation services, of which 13 million practiced open defecation.



**Inadequate solid waste management:** Lack of basic solid waste collection services and open dumping of waste, along with indiscriminate dumping of waste in streams or abandoned areas.



**Exposure to hazardous chemicals:** Exposure to lead, mercury, arsenic, and pesticides is an important contributor to disease, and is of particular concern to children and other highly susceptible populations.



**Negative climate change-related impacts:** Extreme weather events, changing climate patterns, and other slow-onset phenomena have exacerbated food insecurity, air pollution, limited access to clean water, transmission patterns of zoonotic and waterborne disease pathogens, and threats to mental health. Health impacts are exacerbated in areas where poverty, population pressures and inadequate public health infrastructure exist.

## A critical challenge

Environmental public health inequalities between and within countries.



PAHO Strategic Plan 2020-2025



WHO Global Strategy on Health, Environment, and Climate Change.

PAHO Agenda for the Americas 2021-2030

## PAHO'S GUIDING VALUES



## HOW WILL THE AGENDA BE IMPLEMENTED?

### STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Improve the performance of environmental public health programs and institutions.
- Foster an environmentally sustainable and resilient health system.
- Promote environmentally healthy and resilient cities and communities.

### THEMATIC AREAS

- Climate Change and Health.
- Chemical Safety.
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.
- Air Quality and Health.

**Assessment** (monitoring; surveillance; research and knowledge management).

**Policy development** (policies, legislation, and regulatory frameworks; social participation and mobilization).

**Resource allocation** (development of human resources; financing).

**Access** (environmental footprint calculation).

**Assessment** (access to resilient and sustainable services).

**Policy Development** (safe and sustainable management of medicines and other health technologies).

**Access** (interventions on environmental factors; addressing social determinants of health)

## A shared responsibility

- ✓ Call to action to the environmental public health community to lead.
- ✓ Embracing health system resilience and environmental sustainability.
- ✓ Use of the power of partnerships and knowledge.