

Health sector engagement in the sound management of chemicals

Contribution of the sector to SAICM and beyond 2020

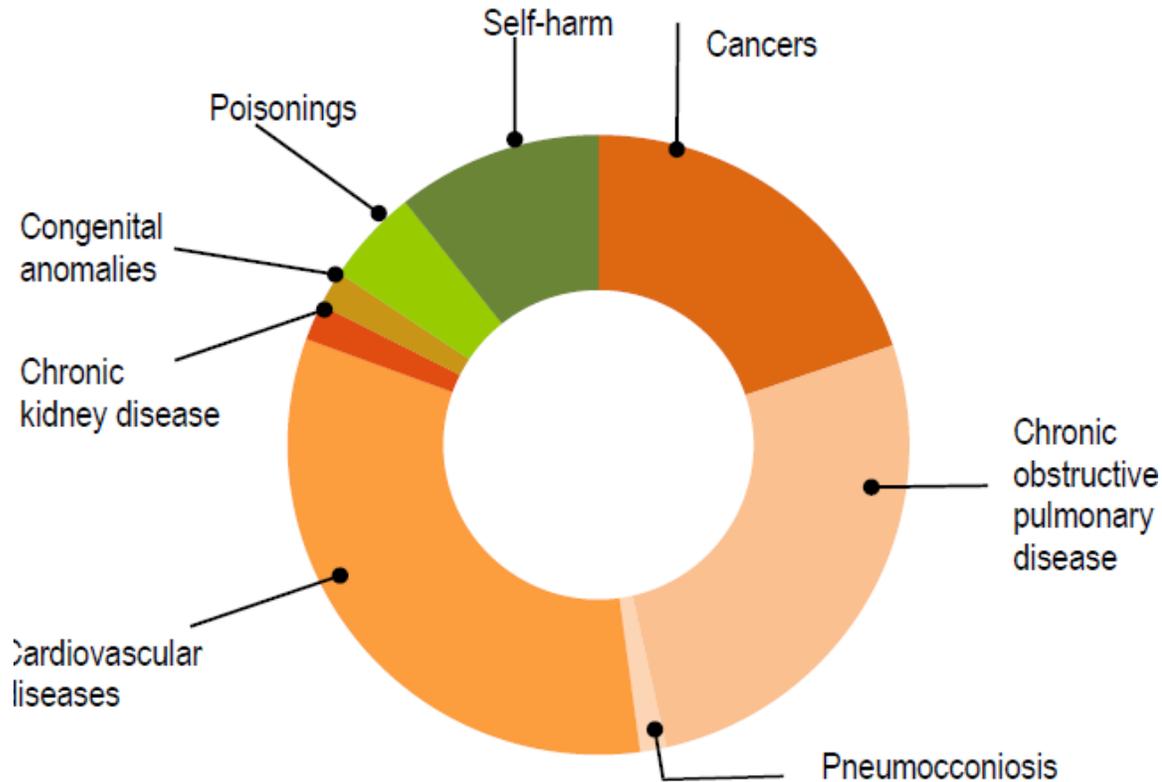
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Tackling harmful chemicals in the healthcare
sector

Carolyn Vickers, Head, Chemical Safety and Health Unit, World Health Organization.



Health impacts of chemicals



Disease burden information for chemicals is very limited.

In 2012, at least 1.3 m deaths were attributable to a small number of chemicals where there are data.

In 2016, that number had risen to 1.6 m.

Data for 2019 will be released by WHO on 7 July at the Berlin Forum.

- The burden of disease attributable to chemicals is increasing.
- People are exposed to many more chemicals in their daily lives.

Foundation of health sector engagement

2006

WHA Resolution 59.15

Welcomes the adoption of SAICM and urges Member States to take full account of the health aspects of chemical safety in implementing SAICM

2016

WHA Resolution 69.4

Urges Member States to **proactively engage in actions** to soundly manage chemicals and waste at the national, regional and international levels to minimize the risk of adverse health impact of chemicals throughout their lifecycle;

Requested WHO Secretariat to develop a road map for the health sector towards achieving the 2020 goal and contributing to the relevant targets of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

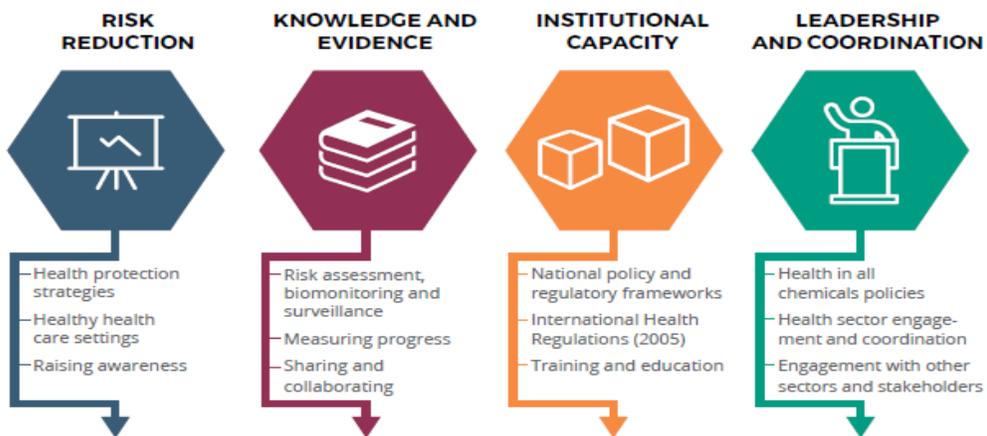
2017 and 2021

WHA Decisions

2017 approval of WHO Chemicals Road Map; WHO DG will report to the 76th WHA (2023) on progress made in implementing road map, and actions taken to update it in light of outcomes of the intersessional process

Road map to enhance health sector engagement in the strategic approach to international chemicals management towards the 2020 goal and beyond

ACTION AREAS



Overall objective of the Strategic Approach

To achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Achieving the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle is a cross-cutting issue that will contribute to achieving many, if not all, 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The targets below are only those that specifically mention chemicals.



Goal 3 Target 3.9

By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination



Goal 6 Target 6.3

By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally



Goal 12 Target 12.4

By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

The WHO Chemicals Road Map



to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond



Developed to support **the health sector** at the national, regional and international levels towards achieving the 2020 goal and contributing to relevant targets of the **2030 Agenda**, taking into account the overall orientation and guidance of the **SAICM**, and the **intersessional process** to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach beyond 2020 [...], and building on WHO's existing relevant work, as well as the **strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.**

Road map and Agenda 2030 links

Implementation of the road map contributes to achievement of the targets below, among others. Achieving the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle is cross-cutting issue.

Goal 3, Target 3.9

By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

Indicators

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3>

Goal 6, Target 6.3

By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

Indicators:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg6>

Goal 12, Target 12.4

By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

Indicators:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg12>



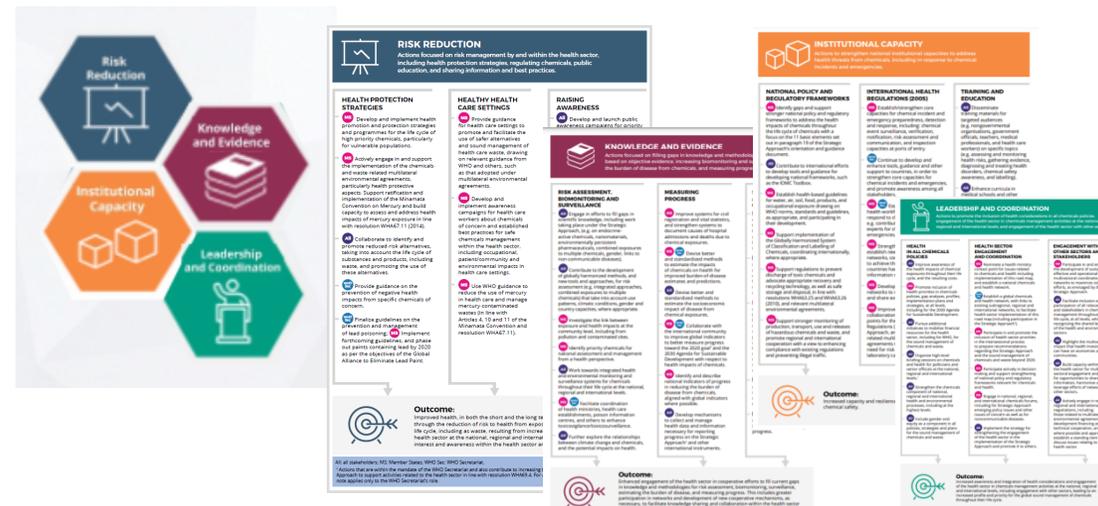
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

The Road Map

Outlines concrete actions to enhance health sector engagement including actions dedicated to the healthcare workers;

Actions organized into four areas:

- risk reduction; knowledge and evidence;
- institutional capacity; leadership and coordination



Defines where the health sector has a **lead or important supporting role**, recognizing the need for multi-sectoral cooperation.

Each action has a suggested lead health sector actor:



The health sector road map may serve as an example and basis for other sectors to develop a tool to enhance their participation in the sound management of chemicals.



RISK REDUCTION

Actions focused on risk management by and within the health sector, including health protection strategies, regulating chemicals, public education, and sharing information and best practices.



HEALTHY HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

MS Provide guidance for health care settings to promote and facilitate the use of safer alternatives and sound management of health care waste, drawing on relevant guidance from WHO and others, such as that adopted under multilateral environmental agreements.

MS Develop and implement awareness campaigns for health care workers about chemicals of concern and established best practices for safe chemicals management within the health sector, including occupational, patient/community and environmental impacts in health care settings.

MS Use WHO guidance to reduce the use of mercury in health care and manage mercury-contaminated wastes (in line with Articles 4, 10 and 11 of the Minamata Convention and resolution WHA67.11).



The road map as a tool – why and how to use it

The road map serves to:

- **identify priority areas for further action** taken on national or regional, or global level with the engagement of health sector and other sectors and stakeholders,
- **advocate for action by decision-makers** and/or **feed into other national planning processes.**

Other key uses of the road map identified by countries:

- Undertaking gap analyses, developing action plans and feeding into national chemicals planning processes
- Communicating the health sector role in chemicals management with other sectors, as well within the health sector

Implementing the road map is a way to participate in the sound management of chemicals.

Implementing the road map – WHO Secretariat actions



The WHO Global Chemicals and Health Network

- ❖ **Global forum** for discussion among **senior level Ministry of Health policy makers** about issues related to health and chemicals.



LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

Actions to promote the inclusion of health considerations in all chemicals policies, engagement of the health sector in chemicals management activities at the national, regional and international levels, and engagement of the health sector with other sectors.

HEALTH SECTOR ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION



Establish a global chemicals and health network, with links to existing subregional, regional and international networks, to facilitate health sector implementation of this road map (including participation in the Strategic Approach¹).

- ❖ 75 member states so far. For information on how to join: gchn@who.int

WHO guidance for health care facilities

Published in October 2020



Provides tools to assist health care facility officials assess their resilience to climate change threats, and their environmental sustainability based upon the appropriate use of resources (in particular water and energy and sustainable procurement), and release of hazards (biological, chemical, radiological), to their surrounding environment

Coordinates global response on AMR



World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2020 - Handle with care: United to preserve antimicrobials

18 – 24 November 2020

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) aims to increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

Developing national strategies for phasing out mercury-containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers in health care, including in the context of the Minamata Convention on Mercury: key considerations and step-by-step guidance, WHO 2015

<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/259448>

Guidance document providing a framework for developing national health system-wide strategies to phase out the manufacture, import and export of mercury-containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers in health care.



WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines



The WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines has been updated every two years since 1977.

The current versions are the 21st WHO Essential Medicines List (EML) and the 7th WHO Essential Medicines List for Children (EMLc) updated in June 2019.

Cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces in the context of COVID-19

Interim guidance

15 May 2020



Provides guidance on the cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces in the context of COVID-19. This guidance is intended for health care professionals, public health professionals and health authorities that are developing and implementing policies and standard operating procedures (SOP) on the cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces in the context of COVID-19.

Implementation of road map – Member States and other stakeholders activities

❖ **Country and stakeholder case studies** on results achieved and lessons learned in implementing the road map.

❖ The case studies



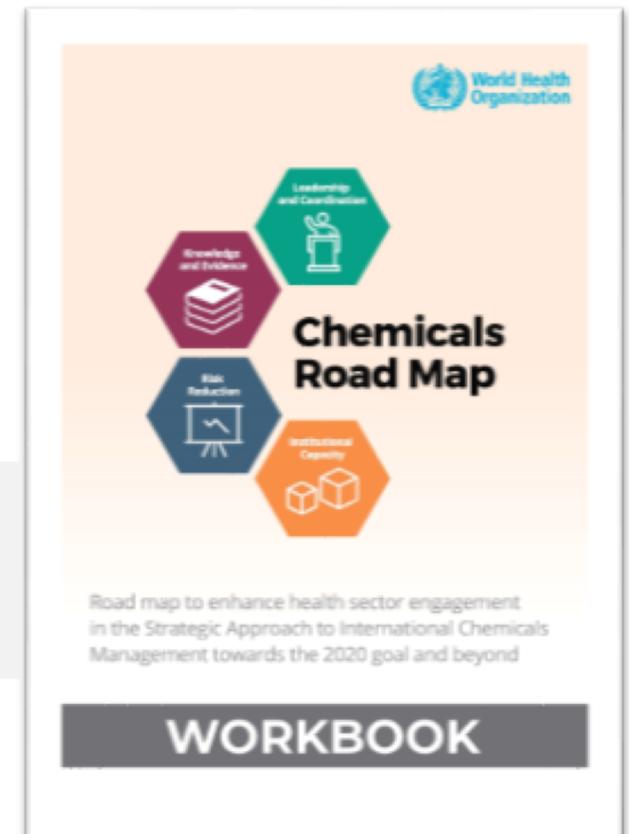
- **Highlight** the importance for health of sound chemicals management in varied settings, the different lead roles that the health sector can play, the benefits of connecting with other sectors, and multisectoral cooperation
- **affirm** the presence of multiple opportunities to better manage chemicals to strengthen the prevention of negative health impacts,



Lays out actions to prevent the negative impacts of chemicals



Helps you to prioritize and plan actions outlined in the road map



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