

WHO: Environmental Mandate & Activities

World Health Organization

Environmental mandate

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, WHO promotes technical cooperation for health among nations, carries out programmes to control and eradicate disease and strives to improve the quality of human life. In matters of health, WHO provides guidance, sets global standards, cooperates with governments in strengthening national programmes, and develops and transfers appropriate technology, information and standards.

Through its WHO Sustainable and Healthy Environments Cluster (SDE), it addresses environmental and other non-health determination of ill health in order to improve people's health and their quality of life. Our objective is to integrate health fully into development processes, and into the priorities and actions of all sectors of society using ethical standards and human rights as benchmarks.

Environmental activities

Through its Protection of the Human Environment Department, the WHO addresses the following environmental issues:

- Chemical Safety includes WHO's participation in the International Programme on Chemical Safety
- Environmental and Occupational Health focuses on climate change, indoor air pollution , traffic emissions and occupational health
- Radiation and Health addresses the multiple and emerging threats to public health from technologies from exposure to ionizing and non-ionizing (EMF and UV) radiation
- Water and Sanitation which creates guidelines and identifies best practices, and
- Healthy Environments for Children focuses on the settings approach and supports countries in maintaining healthy environments for children.