

Children's Environmental Health International Initiatives

This is an international mailing list provided by [WHO](#) and [UNEP](#) dedicated to promoting healthy environments for children

Sep/Oct 2019

UN CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2019

Major announcements by government and private sector leaders at the United Nations Climate Action Summit boosted climate action momentum and demonstrated growing recognition that the pace of climate action must be rapidly accelerated. An impressive 77 countries committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, while over 100 business leaders and asset owners holding over \$2 trillion pledged to align with the Paris Agreement. Health took centre stage at the Summit, as 41 national and 71 city governments, representing 10 per cent of the global population, committed to achieving clean air that is safe to breathe by 2030 through WHO's Clean Air Initiative. A new philanthropic fund to tackle air pollution, the Clean Air Fund, was also launched at the UN Summit and has thus far earmarked \$50 million for air pollution projects in three countries. In closing the Summit, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said: "You have delivered a boost in momentum, cooperation and ambition. But we have a long way to go. We need more concrete plans, more ambition from more countries and more businesses. We need all financial institutions, public and private, to choose, once and for all, the green economy."

[UN Climate Action Summit 2019 closing statement](#)

GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO ADVANCE CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

On 22-23 October 2019, the Global Initiative to Advance Children's Right to a Healthy Environment hosted its second consultation, focusing on the East Asia Pacific region. It brought together almost 100 experts, children and

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

Press Releases

[Strengthening UN Environment Programme important to the Nordic countries](#)

Representatives from the Nordic countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden—met in Nairobi with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Secretariat during two days in October. These annual Nordic consultations are a part of the countries' long-term partnership with UNEP. During the two days of consultations, the Nordic countries demonstrated that they are strong believers in multilateralism, have a shared interest in the global environment – as well as a joint approach to handling environmental challenges. They all believe that UNEP is in a unique position to promote global environmental sustainability. They also noted that the organization needs to be strengthened further to play this critical role more effectively. UNEP (31/10/2019)

[Inaugural environmental and health school takes place in Bonn](#)

In response to rapidly changing environmental and health needs, the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH) has developed the Environment and Health School. The programme is designed using a variety of lesson formats and interactive sessions and focuses on areas of environmental health that have been identified by the Member States as priorities. ECEH aims to support Member States to strengthen their capacities to respond effectively to the diverse environmental health challenges. WHO EURO (31/10/2019)

[As climate shocks intensify, UN food agencies](#)

young people to discuss key environmental issues facing children in the region, and to promote collaboration and tangible solutions to promote children's rights in the face of these challenges. The initiative, which was launched earlier this year with its first consultation for the Latin America and Caribbean region, consists of a series of expert meetings set to take place around the world between 2019 and 2021, culminating in a final global consultation to draw together key recommendations, principles and outcomes, shaped by children, young people and experts, over the course of the initiative. These recommendations will form the basis for a Global Declaration/Charter on Children's Right to a Healthy Environment, with a view to this being adopted by Governments and other key stakeholders.

[Global Initiative to Advance Children's Right to a Healthy Environment](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Air Pollution

[Pediatric psychiatric emergency department utilization and fine particulate matter: a case-crossover study](#)

Acute exposure to ambient particulate matter $PM_{2.5}$ in aerodynamic diameter ($PM_{2.5}$) has been associated with adult psychiatric exacerbations but has not been studied in children. The objectives of this study were to estimate the association between acute exposures to ambient ($PM_{2.5}$) and psychiatric emergency department (ED) utilization and to determine if it is modified by community deprivation. The study used a time-stratified case-crossover design to analyze all pediatric, psychiatric ED encounters at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre in Cincinnati, Ohio, from 2011 to 2015 ($n=13,176$). Conditional logistic regression models adjusted for temperature, humidity, and holiday effects were used to estimate the odds ratio (OR) for a psychiatric ED visit 0-3 days after ambient $PM_{2.5}$ exposures, estimated at residential addresses using a spatiotemporal model. This study found that short-term exposure to ambient air pollution was associated with exacerbations of psychiatric disorders in children one or two days after exposure. The study also found that children living in low socio-economic neighbourhoods may be more susceptible to the

[urge more support for Southern Africa's hungry people](#)

A record 45 million people across the 16-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) will be severely food insecure in the next six months, United Nations food agencies have warned. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are calling for urgent funding to avert a major hunger crisis and for the international community to step up investment in long-term measures to combat the impact of climate shocks and build the capacity of communities and countries to withstand them. There are more than 11 million people now experiencing "crisis" or "emergency" levels of food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4) in nine Southern African countries: Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Eswatini and Lesotho. FAO (31/10/2019)

[Youths from around the world champion wildlife protection](#)

Environmental crime has become the world's fourth-largest crime sector, growing at 2–3 times the rate of the global economy. INTERPOL and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimate that natural resources worth up to US\$258 billion are being stolen by criminal syndicates, depriving countries of their resources, revenues and development opportunities. The World Youth Wildlife Summit took place in September at the Kruger National Park in South Africa, bringing together educators and conservation leaders to discuss and address the threat of wildlife crime. About 150 young conservationists from the Southern African Development Community and their counterparts learned how to influence environmental policies at national, regional and international levels. UNEP (25/10/2019)

[Colombo declaration calls for tackling global nitrogen challenge](#)

At a time when the world grapples with the menace of air pollution killing 7 million people prematurely every year, Sri Lanka, with support from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), convened a two-day event at which member states came together to adopt what is being called the "Colombo Declaration" with an ambition to halve nitrogen waste by 2030.

While a critical element for building structures of

effects of ambient air pollution when compared to other children.

Environmental Health Perspectives

Chemicals

[Heavy metal exposure has adverse effects on the growth and development of preschool children](#)

The purpose of this study was to investigate the associations between levels of lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), and manganese (Mn) in the PM_{2.5} and blood and physical growth, and development parameters including birth length and weight, height, weight, body mass index (BMI), head circumference, and chest circumference in preschool children from Guiyu (e-waste exposure area) and Haojiang (the reference area). Remarkably, the children of Guiyu had significantly lower birth weight and length, BMI, and chest circumference when compare to their peers from the reference area (all p value <0.05). Spearman correlation analyses showed that blood Pb was negatively correlated with height ($r=-0.130$, $p<0.001$), weight ($r=-0.169$, $p<0.001$), BMI ($r=-0.100$, $p<0.05$), head circumference ($r=-0.095$, $p<0.05$), and chest circumference ($r=-0.112$, $p<0.05$). After adjustment for the potential confounders in further linear regression analyses, blood Pb was negatively associated with height ($\beta=-0.066$, $p<0.05$), weight ($\beta=-0.119$, $p<0.001$), head circumference ($\beta=-0.123$, $p<0.01$), and chest circumference ($\beta=-0.104$, $p<0.05$), respectively. No significant association between blood Cd, Cr, or Mn was found with any of our developmental outcomes. Taken together, lead exposure limits or delays the growth and development of preschool children.

Environmental Geochemistry and Health

[Prenatal maternal and childhood bisphenol-a exposure and brain structure and behavior of young children](#)

Bisphenol A (BPA) is commonly used in the manufacture of plastics and epoxy resins. In North America, over 90% of the population has detectable levels of urinary BPA. Human epidemiological studies have reported adverse behavioral outcomes with BPA exposure in children, however, corresponding effects on children's brain structure have not yet been investigated. The current study examined the association between prenatal maternal and childhood BPA exposure and white matter microstructure in children aged 2 to 5 years, and

living organisms and an essential element for the survival of all living things, nitrogen overuse has negative impacts on the planet, biodiversity and is a contributor to the climate crisis. UNEP (24/10/2019)

[New country profiles show changes in environmental health inequalities](#)

New country profiles released by the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health show how countries across the WHO European Region have achieved reductions in some areas of environmental health inequalities. However, work remains to be done in other areas. Environmental determinants are a major contributor to health and well-being, but are not distributed equally. In most countries, disadvantaged population groups tend to be significantly more exposed to environmental risks. Two major assessment reports published in 2012 and 2019 reviewed the status of environmental health inequalities within Member States of the Region. The collection of country profiles supplements the second assessment report, and provides countries with more information on the environmental health inequality trends and changes between 2012 and 2019. WHO EURO (21/10/2019)

[Policies that tackle climate change and air pollution at the same time can raise global climate ambition](#)

Air pollution affects us all to some degree. Whether we live in highly polluted cities or the countryside, there is no escaping the impact dirty air has on our bodies and—as is now becoming apparent—our minds. Seven million people die every year from breathing unclean air. The good news is that these deaths are preventable, and that many governments around the world have taken steps to reduce air pollutants to protect their citizens and the planet. In *Synergizing Action on the Environment and Climate*, a report released in September 2019, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), China's Tsinghua University, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition take stock of how a growing number of countries are addressing climate, air pollution and sustainable development as closely linked challenges with common solutions. UNEP (18/10/2019)

[Poor diets damaging children's health worldwide, warns UNICEF](#)

Poverty, urbanization, climate change and poor eating choices driving unhealthy diets. An

investigated whether brain structure mediated the association between BPA exposure and child behavior. Participants were 98 mother-child pairs who were recruited between January 2009 and December 2012. Total BPA concentrations in spot urine samples obtained from mothers in the second trimester of pregnancy and from children at 3–4 years of age were analyzed. Children participated in a diffusion magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan at age 2–5 years (3.7 ± 0.8 years). Associations between prenatal maternal and childhood BPA and children's fractional anisotropy and mean diffusivity of 10 isolated white matter tracts were investigated, controlling for urinary creatinine, child sex, and age at the time of MRI. Post-hoc analyses examined if alterations in white matter mediated the relationship of BPA and children's scores on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL). This study provides preliminary evidence for the neural correlates of BPA exposure in humans. Our findings suggest that prenatal maternal exposure to BPA may lead to alterations in white matter microstructure in preschool aged children, and that such alterations mediate the relationship between early life exposure to BPA and internalizing problems

Environmental Health

Climate Change

[Drought exposure as a risk factor for child undernutrition in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review and assessment of empirical evidence](#)

Droughts affect around 52 million people globally each year, a figure that is likely to increase under climate change. This study aims to assess the strength of empirical evidence on drought exposure as a risk factor for undernutrition in children <5 years of age in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Systematic review of observational studies published between 1990 and 2018 in English and reporting undernutrition outcomes in children <5 years of age in relation to droughts in LMICs. The search was performed in the Global Health, Medline, Embase, and Scopus databases. We assessed the strength of evidence following the Navigation Guide. 27 studies met our inclusion criteria. 12 reported prevalence estimates in drought-affected conditions without comparison to unaffected conditions. These showed high prevalence of chronic and mixed undernutrition and poor to critical levels of acute undernutrition. Only two

alarmingly high number of children are suffering the consequences of poor diets and a food system that is failing them, UNICEF warned today in a new report on children, food and nutrition. *The State of the World's Children 2019: Children, food and nutrition* finds that at least 1 in 3 children under five – or over 200 million – is either undernourished or overweight. Almost 2 in 3 children between six months and two years of age are not fed food that supports their rapidly growing bodies and brains. This puts them at risk of poor brain development, weak learning, low immunity, increased infections and, in many cases, death. “Despite all the technological, cultural and social advances of the last few decades, we have lost sight of this most basic fact: If children eat poorly, they live poorly,” said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director. “Millions of children subsist on an unhealthy diet because they simply do not have a better choice. The way we understand and respond to malnutrition needs to change: It is not just about getting children enough to eat; it is above all about getting them the right food to eat. That is our common challenge today.” UNICEF (15/10/2019)

[Region's leaders discuss need to protect health in relation to climate change and the environment](#)

The seventieth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific concluded today after discussions on climate change and environmental health.

Climate change poses a vast range of health risks for countries in the Western Pacific Region, from warmer temperatures that increase the range of malaria, dengue and other vector-borne diseases to a rise in waterborne and foodborne diseases associated with extreme weather. Many Pacific island countries and areas are seriously threatened by rising sea levels. And for some Asian countries, pollution and other environmental issues associated with rapid economic development pose serious health risks. In all, about 3.5 million deaths a year in the Region are attributable to avoidable environmental risks. Addressing these threats is also a key priority for WHO's work in the coming five years, as outlined in *For the Future*. WPRO (11/10/2019)

[Children's right to a healthy environment: submission by Human Rights Watch to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

The Human Rights Watch has documented children's exposure to hazardous substances in a

studies were judged to have low risk of bias. Overall, the strength of evidence of drought as a risk factor was found to be *limited*, but the two studies with low risk of bias suggested positive associations of drought exposure with children being underweight and having anaemia. Published evidence suggests high levels of all types of child undernutrition in drought-affected populations in low-income settings, but the extent to which these levels are attributable to drought has not been clearly quantified and may be context specific. This review offers suggestions for enhancing the quality of future studies to strengthen evidence on the potential magnitude, timing, and modifying factors of drought impacts.
Environment International

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

[Diet as a source of exposure to environmental contaminants for pregnant women and children from six European countries](#)

The purpose of this study was to investigate the associations between levels of lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), and manganese (Mn) in the PM_{2.5} and blood and physical growth, and development parameters including birth length and weight, height, weight, body mass index (BMI), head circumference, and chest circumference in preschool children from Guiyu (e-waste exposure area) and Haojiang (the reference area). A total of 470 preschool children from Guiyu and Haojiang located in southeast coast of China were recruited and required to undergo physical examination and blood tests during the study period. Birth length and weight were obtained by birth records and questionnaire. Pb and Cd in both PM_{2.5} and blood were significantly higher in Guiyu than Haojiang. Remarkably, the children of Guiyu had significantly lower birth weight and length, BMI, and chest circumference when compare to their peers from the reference area (all p value < 0.05). Spearman correlation analyses showed that blood Pb was negatively correlated with height ($r = -0.130, p < 0.001$), weight ($r = -0.169, p < 0.001$), BMI ($r = -0.100, p < 0.05$), head circumference ($r = -0.095, p < 0.05$), and chest circumference ($r = -0.112, p < 0.05$). After adjustment for the potential confounders in further linear regression analyses, blood Pb was negatively associated with height ($\beta = -0.066, p < 0.05$), weight ($\beta = -0.119, p < 0.001$), head circumference ($\beta = -0.123, p < 0.01$), and chest circumference

variety of contexts. Around the world, children are exposed to hazardous substances while playing, bathing, going to school, eating, drinking, or working. Many hazardous substances have particularly harmful consequences for children, whose developing bodies absorb them at higher concentrations than those of adults. Children are especially vulnerable to certain toxins, as their bodies are still developing, and exposure may lead in some cases to irreversible damage, disability, or sometimes even death. In anticipation of the 2020 Human Rights Watch annual meeting on children's right to a healthy environment, a submission has been made to the OHCHR highlighting the need for governments to better protect children's environmental health.
HRW (8/10/2019)

[Honouring earth's champions and young champions](#)

As Cipriani restaurant in New York filled with guests on 26 September 2019, the Champions of the Earth award ceremony came alive with colour and energy. At a time when climate change is at the top of the agenda, action to tackle our environmental crisis was central to the night's activities. As leaders gathered in New York to tackle the climate crisis during talks at the United Nations throughout the week, the Champions of the Earth award—the UN's highest environmental honour—celebrated action. Laureates and Young Champions of the Earth reminded the 450 high-level guests and delegates that there are solutions—and bold people who search for and find them. It was an evening of achievement, with winners including the country of Costa Rica, climate scientist Professor Katharine Hayhoe, the company Patagonia, Chinese mobile app Ant Forest and the movement Fridays for Future, honoured for their remarkable achievements towards environmental protection. UNEP (27/09/2019)

[Clean Air Fund launches at the UN General Assembly Climate Action Summit](#)

The Clean Air Fund is a philanthropic initiative with the mission to tackle air pollution around the world. By bringing together professionals from across many different sectors, the Clean Air Fund aims to find solutions that will provide clean air for all. The Clean Air Fund was officially launched in September at the 2019 UN General Assembly Climate Action Summit. \$50 million has been raised to tackle air pollution through the combined

($\beta = -0.104$, $p < 0.05$), respectively. No significant association between blood Cd, Cr, or Mn was found with any of our developmental outcomes. Taken together, lead exposure limits or delays the growth and development of preschool children.

Environmental Health Perspectives

E-waste

[Schoolchildren's personal exposure to ultrafine particles in and near Accra, Ghana](#)

Exposure to air pollution is a significant health risk, and children who are exposed to it are likely to have lifelong consequences. Ultrafine particles (UFPs) are emitted by all combustion sources, and can be used as a proxy for the presence of combustion products. The present study, the first of its kind to be conducted in Africa, assessed schoolchildren's exposure to UFPs, and apportioned their daily exposure to seven different microenvironments that they inhabited on a typical school day. The personal exposure of 61 pupils attending three junior high schools was measured for 24 h each using wearable monitors over a period of 10 weeks. Two of the schools were located in suburbs of Accra and the third in Berekuso, a nearby rural community. The results of the study revealed the complex nature of children's UFP exposure and its overall high to very high levels, significantly influenced by the locality (suburb) of residence and the type of activities in which the children were engaged. The mean (\pm standard error) daily exposure to UFPs (cm^{-3}) was $6.9 \times 10^4 (\pm 6.8 \times 10^3)$, $4.9 (\pm 1.0) \times 10^4$ and $1.6 \times 10^4 \pm 1.9 \times 10^3$ for pupils attending the Ashia Mills, Faith Baptist and Berekuso Basic Schools, respectively. Pupils attending the schools in urban Accra received higher exposure than those attending the school in the rural environment of Berekuso. The highest mean microenvironmental exposure was registered in the Home other microenvironment in an urban school and in Bedroom in another urban school and in the rural school. The high exposure in Home other was due to pupils conducting trash burning and encountering environmental tobacco smoke, and the high exposure in Bedroom microenvironment was due to the burning of mosquito coils at night to prevent malaria. The principal sources that heightened exposure to UFPs were emissions from cooking (using firewood and charcoal), vehicular traffic and combustion of biomass and trash. All pupils recorded the highest exposure intensity in the Kitchen microenvironment.

efforts of foundations with a focus on health, climate, children's development and mobility. The Clean Air Fund has also published an analysis of the state of global philanthropy on outdoor air quality and covers the contribution of a variety of foundations and the countries and projects in which the grants are focused. CAF (26/09/2019)

[Multilateral agencies launch a joint plan to boost global health goals](#)

Today at the United Nations General Assembly, 12 multilateral agencies launched a joint plan to better support countries over the next 10 years to accelerate progress towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Developed over 18 months, Stronger Collaboration, Better Health: Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All outlines how a dozen multilateral health, development and humanitarian agencies will collaborate to be more efficient and provide more streamlined support to countries to deliver universal health coverage and achieve the health-related SDG targets. Healthy people are essential for sustainable development and for ending poverty, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies as well as protecting the environment. Over the last few decades, significant gains have been made in key areas of health, but the 2030 targets will not be met without redoubled efforts. WHO (24/09/2019)

[Pollution Pods connect the dots among air pollution, climate change and health at climate action summit](#)

Air quality is difficult to visualize, making it easy to forget and thus a challenge to keep at the top of people's minds— but one artist has given it a whirl, and his exhibition, brought to the UN Headquarters this week by the World Health Organization, is generating lively discussions by its influential visitors on the links among air pollution, climate change, health and subnational action. Michael Pinsky's Pollution Pods, which replicate (with harmless specially-crafted scents and climate control) the very different air quality conditions in five different cities, are giving attendees to the Climate Action Summit a firsthand smell experience of wandering through Beijing, New Delhi, Sao Paulo, London and a pristine Norwegian island. Delegates to the first WHO Global Air Pollution and Health Conference in October last year would be familiar with the pods, which added a public, interactive and visceral dimension to the intense discussions in Geneva on what the WHO has long called a

Environment International

[Alterations in platelet indices link polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons toxicity to low-grade inflammation in preschool children](#)

Environmental exposure to carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) can disturb the immune response. However, the effect of PAHs on low-grade inflammation related to platelets in humans is unknown. This study investigates the association of PAH exposure with low-grade inflammation and platelet parameters in healthy preschool children. The study recruited 239 participants, aged 2-7 years, from an electronic-waste (e-waste)-exposed (n=118) and a reference (n=121) area. The study measured ten urinary PAH metabolites, four types of immune cells and cytokines, and seven platelet parameters, and compared their differences between children from the two groups. Spearman correlation analysis was performed to explore the potential risk factors for PAH exposure and the associations between urinary monohydroxylated PAHs (OH-PAHs) and biological parameters. Associations between urinary PAH metabolites and platelet indices were analyzed using quantile regression models. Mediation analysis was used to understand the relationship between urinary total hydroxynaphthalene (Σ OHNa) and interleukin (IL)-1 β through seven platelet indices, as mediator variables. Platelet indices were significantly associated with the changes in urinary OH-PAH levels, which may be regarded as effective biomarkers of low-grade inflammation resulting from low PAH exposure in healthy children.

Environment International

New Publications

[Healthy environments for healthier populations: why do they matter, and what can we do?](#)

Globally, 23% of all deaths could be prevented through healthier environments – and scaled-up action is required. This document presents an overview of sectoral actions that can be taken by various actors – and the support that is being offered by the World Health Organization – to create healthier environments, including in priority settings such as workplaces, cities, dwellings, health care facilities, and emergency settings. Key risk areas are addressed, such as air pollution; water, sanitation and hygiene; chemical safety and radiation; and climate change. The

public health emergency — and one with direct links to climate change mitigation. BreatheLife (23/09/2019)

In the Media

[Up to 630 million people could be threatened by rising seas](#)

Up to 630 million people are living on land threatened by flooding from sea level rises by the end of the century – three times as many as previously thought, according to a new analysis. The greatest increase in risk was found for communities living in Asian megacities, due to the way earlier estimates were worked out. “To us it’s a staggering difference. It’s a completely new perspective on the scale of this threat,” says Benjamin Strauss at Climate Central, a New Jersey-based independent organisation. Previous calculations of the number of people at risk have been based on estimates of land elevation around the world using satellite data from NASA. But that approach gets confused by rooftops and forests, which can be mistaken for the ground, meaning a skyscraper-packed city such as Shanghai could look at a misleadingly low risk of flooding as seas rise. NewScientist (29/10/2019)

[Trump administration to begin official withdrawal from Paris Climate Accord](#)

The Trump administration is preparing the formal withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change, according to three people briefed on the matter, a long-expected move that nevertheless remains a powerful signal to the world. The official action sets in motion a withdrawal that still would take a year to complete under the rules of the accord. Abandoning the landmark 2015 agreement in which nearly 200 nations vowed to reduce planet warming emissions would fulfil one of President Trump’s key campaign promises while placing the world’s largest economy at odds with the rest of the globe on a top international policy priority. The New York Times (23/10/2019)

[Indonesia shuts schools as smoke from forest fire takes toll](#)

Indonesia closed more schools on Monday (16/9) in parts of the islands of Borneo and Sumatra, as well as providing oxygen at health centres to help treat some of the thousands suffering respiratory infections due to choking smoke from forest fires. Indonesia and neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia are regularly hit by smoky haze

actions presented provide an initial overview and overall policy directions and refer to more detailed information for the next steps. They focus on intersectoral collaboration between a wide range of partners – international organizations, governments, and national and subnational actors – to create safe, enabling and equitable environments for better health and a more sustainable future. *World Health Organization*

[Synergizing action on the environment and climate: good practices in China and around the globe](#)

Thanks in large part to the growing number of integrated assessments, tools and good examples, international interest in applying integrated co-governance approaches to solve connected climate, environmental and development problems have grown substantially since the early 1990s. Many countries are now assessing the benefits of integrating their climate and air pollution strategies and measures. This report presents local and national examples from China and other countries, which demonstrate the growing interest in and application of integrated co-governance approaches around the world.

Climate & Clean Air Coalition

[Clean Air Fund: the state of global philanthropy on air quality](#)

Air pollution has a devastating impact. More than 90% of people globally are breathing air that is damaging their health. Outdoor air pollution results in 4.2 million deaths each year, including almost 300,000 children under five. The outdoor air pollution crisis is escalating at an appalling rate in many countries and is projected to get much worse: without aggressive intervention, the number of deaths due to outdoor air pollution are expected to increase by more than 50% by 2050. 1 Tackling air pollution will not just improve health but can bring multiple benefits to issues including climate change, children's development and equity. This report summarises the trends in leading global philanthropic foundation funding on air quality over the past four years. It analyses the investments made to date and provides an overview of the geographies and types of projects being funded.

Clean Air Fund

from slash-and-burn clearances of forests for timber and palm oil plantations, but conditions this year have been the worst since 2015 due to an El Nino weather pattern causing an extended dry spell. Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency says more than 328,000 hectares of forests and peatlands have been burnt since January. Acute respiratory infections have affected 11,758 people in Palangka Raya, 15,346 in Riau and 15,047 in Jambi, according to data from Indonesia's Health Ministry. The ministry distributed more than 1.2 million masks in impacted areas as well as 1,000 vials of respiratory medicine. Thompson Reuters Foundation News (16/9/2019)

['Like sunburn on your lungs': how does the climate crisis impact health?](#)

The climate crisis is making people sicker – worsening illnesses ranging from seasonal allergies to heart and lung disease. Children, pregnant people and the elderly are the most at risk from extreme weather and rising heat. But the impact of the climate crisis – for patients, doctors and researchers – is already being felt across every specialty of medicine, with worse feared to come. An August article in the New England Journal of Medicine lays out dozens of similar studies to show how the climate crisis affects each practice of medicine. Renee Salas, a co-author of the report, who teaches emergency medicine at Harvard Medical School said: “The climate crisis is impacting not only health for our patients but the way we deliver care and our ability to do our jobs. And that’s happening today.” The Guardian (16/9/2019)

EVENTS

[The 10th International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment](#)

Amsterdam, the Netherlands. 22 – 24 April 2020. INCHES is calling for abstract submissions to be presented at the conference. Submissions are due by 15 January 2020 and can be submitted at <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=10thinches>

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