



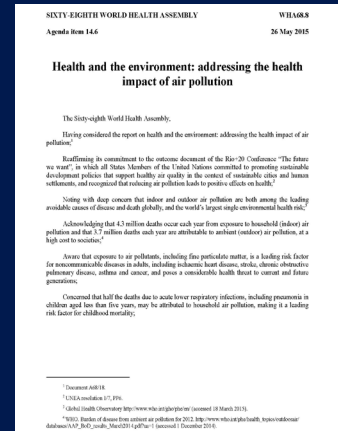
# Updated Road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution (2025-2030)





# 2015 WHA Resolution on Air Pollution and Health

# 2016 Road Map for enhanced global response to air pollution





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# Road Map Framework & Structure

- I. Background on process
- II. Voluntary Target
- III. Contextual relevance
- IV. Defining framework for health sector response
- V. Four categories of actions for Member States
- VI. WHO Secretariat Support
- VII. Annex – Summary figures of actions, outputs and outcomes for tackling





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Voluntary Target included in [EB156/24 Updated road map for enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution](#)

“50% reduction in the population-attributable fraction of mortality from anthropogenic sources of air pollution by 2040, relative to 2015 baseline values.”





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# Voluntary Target - Rationale & monitoring

- Target is relative in recognition that countries have different baselines, and local contexts and sources.
- Target aims to align with other global or regional efforts addressing air quality
- Progress will be monitored by looking the changes in health impacts from fine particulate matter (i.e. PM<sub>2.5</sub>) at country level and aggregated for global estimate
- Demographic changes will be accounted for in the modelling approaches used currently for harmonized reporting.
- Those countries already achieving annual averages equivalent to the WHO guideline interim-target 4 (i.e., 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) should continue making progress toward reducing air pollution but a 50% reduction may not be feasible.



The updated road map is organized into four categories:



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**Knowledge and  
evidence**



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**Measuring  
progress**



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**Institutional  
Capacity-  
strengthening**



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**Global leadership  
and coordination**





# Knowledge and evidence

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- Build, synthesize, disseminate evidence and knowledge on the impacts of air pollution on health, and on the effectiveness of sectoral interventions
- Identifies synergies with climate change mitigation
- Identifies knowledge gaps, and promotes innovation and research
- Evaluations of cost-effectiveness and cost–benefit of sectoral interventions for health benefits and other impacts





# Knowledge and evidence



## Actions

1. Governments develop or adapt air quality standards to align with WHO Air Quality Guideline levels and interim targets at country and city-level

2. Governments invest and use synthesised and translated health evidence in policy and programmatic decision-making including cost-effective analysis of different interventions across sectors

3. Government institutions with the support of civil society organizations disseminate evidence to the population on air pollution health risks and measures for reducing exposure

## Outputs

1. Air quality standards are in place and regularly updated to reflect the current knowledge on health risks from air pollution

2. Established network of researchers (e.g., International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, WHO collaborating centres) and medical societies, both local and global, engaged in deriving evidence on health risk, local sources of air pollution and effectiveness of interventions

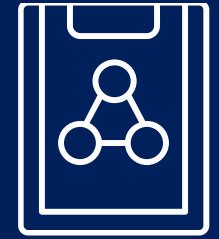
3. Data, information and public health guidance on health risks from air pollution, especially for vulnerable populations is made publicly available

## Outcomes

**Health knowledge:** MS are equipped with knowledge and health evidence to inform decision-making across all sectors to maximize health and multiple benefits of air pollution reductions, with particular consideration of equity and vulnerable populations



# Measuring progress



- Proposes enhancing monitoring systems, structures and process to better assess and monitor the health impacts of air pollution exposure, and the lack of access to clean energy in the home and the health care facility
- Highlights importance of identifying sources of health-damaging pollutants for informing policy
- Emphasizes synergies of measuring progress with efforts to monitor sustainable development goals and other global initiatives and targets



# Measuring progress



## Actions

## Outputs

## Outcomes

1. Utilize health-based guidance, initiate, update and/or expand air quality monitoring network(s) to ensure routine and official data collection on air pollution levels for monitoring health impacts as well as reporting on global indicators like the Sustainable Development Goals indicators

2. Integrate indicators and metrics for monitoring health impacts of air pollution into health data and public health surveillance systems at the city and country-level.

3. Governments in partnership with environmental and meteorological institutions routinely publish data on air pollution levels, health impacts and when possible paired with source attribution (e.g. household energy use, transport)

1. Established, maintained and sustained official monitoring network of air quality levels for health risk evaluation

2. Health data systems and surveillance networks are strengthened to account for health risks from air pollution

3. Data on air pollution and health burden are publicly available and disseminated

**Health data:** MS have established baselines and an official and routine monitoring network in place which is used to evaluate and adapt policy measure to tackle air pollution and reduce inequalities



# Institutional capacity-strengthening



Focus on building the capacity of the health sector:

- To understand, analyse and influence policy and decision-making processes related to air pollution and health using health evidence, tools and resources to inform and engage, particularly with other sectors
- Provide advice and guidance to patients and the community on air pollution as a health risk
- Integrate air pollution control actions into NCD, maternal child and adolescent health strategies and other related health promotion activities

# Institutional Capacity Strengthening



## Actions

## Outputs

## Outcomes

1. Integrate information on air pollution and health risk into health professional training, medical school and paraprofessional curricula and trainings

1. Health professionals are trained and capable to advise patients on protection from air pollution exposure

2. Invest in the health system response to ensure an adequate number of trained health professionals are available to respond to air pollution health impacts, in particular for long-term effects

2. Health systems are prepared to respond to air pollution episodes using enhanced surveillance techniques

3. Invest in human capacity within the health sector to utilize a primary health care approach to address air pollution as a key determinant of health

3. Health professionals are engaged and able to utilize health impact assessment and other information resources and guidance to inform multisectoral decision-making

**Health competency:** All key stakeholders including health, environment, energy and other sector actors are aware of and able to build evidence-based health arguments in the context of action on air pollution, climate change and the energy transition



# Global leadership and coordination



- Highlights the importance of health sector leadership and coordinated action to protect public health from air pollution and lack of clean energy access
- Emphasizes the opportunities and aligning with global processes and synergistic efforts (e.g., climate change, biodiversity), particularly in light of the transboundary nature of air pollution
- Promotes the use of strategic communication for the integration of air pollution in broader disease prevention and development efforts



# Global leadership and coordination



## Actions

1. Governments allocate adequate capacity, e.g., focal point within the Ministry of Health, and resources to ensure the health sector is actively engaged and providing the evidence in of other sectors decision-making

2. Engage and promote health messaging and campaigns, e.g., BreatheLife, for air pollution reduction for health benefits, with the support of key stakeholders

3. Harness the capacity of the health sector to produce and use evidence and data to engage and influence multilateral agreements, processes and initiatives

## Outputs

1. Health professionals are advocates and driving decision-making in different sectors to account for health risks and benefits from air pollution mitigation

2. Health professionals are leaders in the global community raising awareness on clean air for public health protection and highlighting relevant issues such as air pollution hot spots, risks for vulnerable populations and solutions like clean household energy use.

3. Health impacts of air pollution are accounted for in climate change policies, e.g., NDCs, economic, development and environmental decision-making at the global, national and regional level

## Outcomes

Health leadership: Health professionals engage decision-makers at the local, national and regional level to ensure health considerations from clean air are integrated in policy and programmes.





# WHO Secretariat Support

Outlines various ongoing and envisioned work of the WHO Secretariat to support MS governments in their efforts to tackle air pollution. Some highlights include:

- Provide normative guidance and implementation support to countries
- Engage with experts to synthesize and disseminate evidence
- Support routinely harmonized data collection on relevant indicators
- Provisions of tools and resources for training health care professionals
- Support health sector scale up clean energy in health care facilities
- Convening and coordination with UN partners, academia, and civil society
- Support strategic communication efforts (e.g., [Breathelife Campaign](#))



# Process status and next Steps

## Below are next steps:

- EB156 agreed to 'adopt' the updated road map on 10 February 2025
- WHO Secretariat to continue with MS information sessions until WHA78. These sessions will be typically arranged via WHO regional offices.
- Their purpose is to further inform MS about the road map and gather feedback on priorities and challenges for MS. Understanding priorities will help WHO Secretariat tailor support to MS needs.
- WHO Secretariat is asked to report back to the WHA in 2030 on the progress to implement the updated road map.





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[https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/EB156/B156\\_24-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB156/B156_24-en.pdf)

Thank you.

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