

# Health and environment scorecard Bangladesh

## Extent of the problem

## Health impact

## Policies

### Air pollution



**9x** the WHO air quality guideline value for PM<sub>2.5</sub>

WHO Guideline (annual mean): 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>

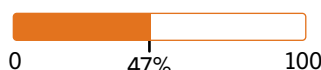
Bangladesh annual mean: 46 µg/m<sup>3</sup>



**77%** of population without clean fuels and technology for cooking



**47%** of deaths from stroke and ischaemic heart disease caused by air pollution<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Air pollution causes many other diseases and adverse health outcomes, stroke and ischaemic heart disease have been chosen for this country scorecard.



Existence of legal standards for PM<sub>2.5</sub>



Compliant with WHO Air Quality Guidelines



Existence of national policy on household energy



### WASH



**41%** of population without safe drinking water<sup>2</sup>



**69%** of population without safe sanitation<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Operationalised as using safely managed drinking water and sanitation services.



**71%** of deaths from diarrhoea caused by unsafe drinking water, sanitation and inadequate personal hygiene



### Sufficient funding for implementation of national plans

Drinking water

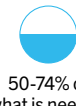


50-74% of what is needed

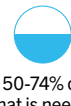


50-74% of what is needed

Sanitation



50-74% of what is needed



50-74% of what is needed

WASH

Health care facilities  
INSUFFICIENT DATA

Schools

95 to 100% of what is needed

### Climate change



Number of 'warm spell' days<sup>3</sup> in 2050 under a high emissions scenario<sup>4</sup>

**170** days

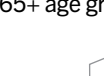
<sup>3</sup> A 'warm spell' day is a day when maximum temperature, together with that of at least the 6 consecutive previous days, exceeds the 90th percentile threshold for that time of the year. The threshold is based on the period 1961-1990.

Analysis by the Climatic Research Unit, University of East Anglia, 2018.



**4x** more heat deaths in 2050 compared to 1961-1990 period under a high emissions scenario<sup>4</sup>

Deaths per 100,000 people in the 65+ age group



4 heat deaths per year before 1990



16 heat deaths in 2050

<sup>4</sup> High emissions scenario RCP8.5 - Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5.

<sup>5</sup> Existence of a recent national assessment and plan refers to having conducted a climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessment and/or a health national adaptation plan (HNAP) since January 2020.



Existence of recent national assessment and plan<sup>5</sup>



Vulnerability and adaptation assessment

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Health National Adaptation plan (HNAP)



Commitment to COP26 Health Programme

Climate resilient health systems



Sustainable low carbon health systems



Net zero commitment



Inclusion of health co-benefits in Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)



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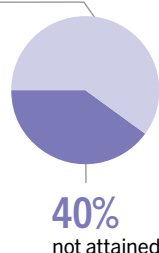
## Extent of the problem

### Chemicals



International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity score for chemical events

IHR capacity score of **60%** for chemical events<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> Key informants report on attainment of a set of attributes for chemical events (core capacity 14) using a standard WHO instrument.

## Health impact

**1** out of 100,000 children under five die from poisonings every year

Bangladesh compared to regional values:



8<sup>th</sup> of 11 countries in the South-East Asian Region

## Policies



Existence of legal limit on lead paint



Existence of a poison centre

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Party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

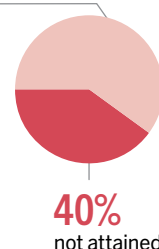


### Radiation



International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity score for radiation emergencies

IHR capacity score of **60%** for radiation emergencies<sup>7</sup>



<sup>7</sup> Key informants report on attainment of a set of attributes for radiation emergencies (core capacity 15) using a standard WHO instrument.

**1** out of 100,000 people die from melanoma and other skin cancers every year

Less than **1** out of 100,000 people die from residential radon every year



Existence of standards on electromagnetic fields



Existence of regulation of artificial tanning devices/sun beds

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Existence of national radon regulations for dwellings

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### Occupational health

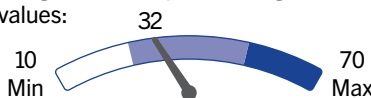


**95%** of informal employment in total employment



**18%** of the working age population exposed to long working hours (≥55 hours/week)

**32** out of 100,000 people of working age die from diseases due to occupational risks every year  
Bangladesh compared to regional values:



6<sup>th</sup> of 11 countries in the South-East Asian Region

**12** out of 100,000 people of working age die from injuries due to occupational risks every year  
Bangladesh compared to regional values:



11<sup>th</sup> of 11 countries in the South-East Asian Region



Existence of programmes for occupational health and safety of health workers

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**0 of 3** key international labour conventions on occupational safety and health ratified

**C155**  
Occupational safety and health



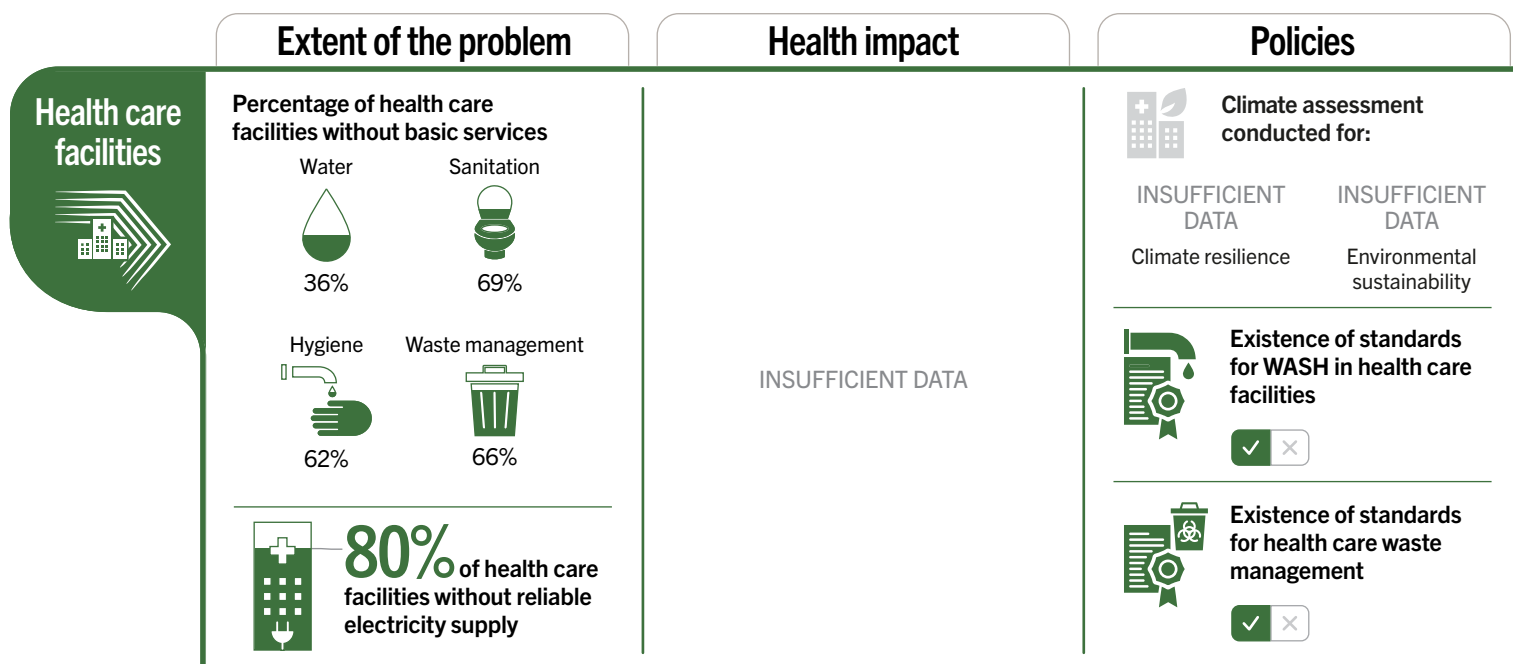
**C161**  
Occupational health services



**C187**  
Promotional framework



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**80%** of health care facilities without reliable electricity supply

Please access the reading guide [here](#)

## References

**Air pollution:** WHO global air quality guidelines 2021 • WHO SDG Indicator 11.6.2 Concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>); 2019 data • WHO household air pollution data; 2019 data • WHO Air pollution data portal; health impact data for 2019 • UNEP 2021: Regulating air quality: the first global assessment of air pollution legislation; data for 2020 • WHO Household energy policy repository; data continuously updated. **WASH:** WHO, UNICEF: Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2022 data • WHO water, sanitation and hygiene: burden of disease, 2019 data • WHO GLAAS 2021/2022 cycle. **Climate change:** WHO Health and Climate Change Country Profiles • Honda et al. 2014 • Kendrovski et al. 2017 • WHO Health and Climate Change Global Survey • WHO: Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH): Country Commitments. • WHO 2023: Health in the Nationally Determined Contributions [in press]. **Chemicals:** WHO: International Health Regulations core capacity scores, 2022 data • WHO: Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisonings; data for 2019 • WHO: Legally binding controls for lead paint, updated 2022.

• WHO: World directory of poisons centres, updated 2023 • UNEP: Minamata Convention on Mercury, 2021 data. **Radiation:** WHO: International Health Regulations core capacity scores, 2022 data • WHO: Deaths from melanoma and other skin cancers, 2019 data • IHME: Deaths from residential radon, 2019 data • WHO: Electromagnetic fields, updated 2018 • WHO: Sunbeds: Existence of national regulations, updated 2021 • WHO: Existence of national radon regulations, 2019 data. **Occupational health:** ILOSTAT: Statistics on the informal economy, updated 2023 • WHO: Disease burden from long working hours, 2016 data • WHO/ILO: Joint estimates of the work-related burden of disease and injury, 2016 data • Pega et al. 2023 • WHO: Occupational Burden of Disease Application • WHO: Existence of national policy instruments for occupational health and safety for health workers, 2021 data • ILO ratifications of C155, C161 and C187, updated 2023. **Health care facilities:** WHO/UNICEF 2022: Progress on WASH in health care facilities 2000–2021 • WHO: Database on electrification of health-care facilities, updated 2022 • WHO: Health and Climate Change Global Survey • WHO/UNICEF Country progress tracker, updated 2022.

This scorecard is based on already published data (see references). It is a tool to measure and track the progress of Member States and is not intended for ranking.