

Health and environment scorecard Ghana

Extent of the problem

Air pollution



9x the WHO air quality guideline value for PM_{2.5}

WHO Guideline (annual mean): 5 µg/m³

Ghana annual mean: 46 µg/m³

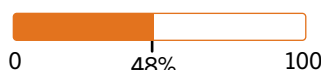


77% of population without clean fuels and technology for cooking

Health impact



48% of deaths from stroke and ischaemic heart disease caused by air pollution¹



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

Policies



Existence of legal standards for PM_{2.5}



Compliant with WHO Air Quality Guidelines



Existence of national policy on household energy



WASH



56% of population without safe drinking water



84% of population without safe sanitation²

² Operationalised as using safely managed drinking water and sanitation services.



76% of deaths from diarrhoea caused by unsafe drinking water, sanitation and inadequate personal hygiene



Sufficient funding for implementation of national plans

Drinking water

Urban

<50% of what is needed

Rural

<50% of what is needed

Sanitation

<50% of what is needed

<50% of what is needed

WASH

Health care facilities

<50% of what is needed

Schools

<50% of what is needed

Climate change



89% fossil fuels and traditional use of biomass in total final energy consumption



Number of 'warm spell' days³ in 2050 under a high emissions scenario⁴

155 days

³ 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.



36x more heat deaths in 2050 compared to 1961-1990 period under a high emissions scenario⁴

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

1 heat death per year before 1990

36 heat deaths in 2050

⁴ High emissions scenario RCP8.5 - Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5.

⁵ 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 plan⁵

INSUFFICIENT DATA

Vulnerability and adaptation assessment

INSUFFICIENT DATA

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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Biodiversity



8% of terrestrial and marine area protected

Global target: Conserve 30% of land, waters and seas by 2030

Change in forest area 1990-2020



-20% change in forest area



-19,380 km² change in forest area

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Post-COP15 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan submitted



Chemicals



Mean blood lead level in children under 5 years

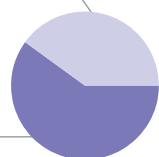
4 µg/dL

International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity score for chemical events

IHR capacity score of

40% for chemical events⁶

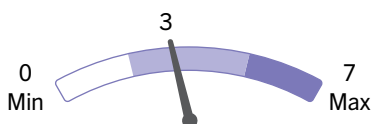
60% not attained



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

3 out of 100,000 children under 5 years die from poisonings every year

Ghana compared to regional values:



27th of 47 countries in the African Region



Existence of legal limit on lead paint



Existence of a poison centre



Party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury



Radiation

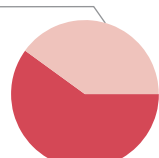


International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity score for radiation emergencies

IHR capacity score of

40% for radiation emergencies⁷

60% not attained



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

Less than **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

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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



Percentage of informal employment in total employment

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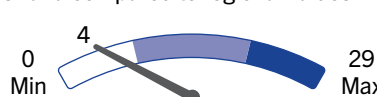
14% of the working age population exposed to long working hours (≥ 55 hours/week)

Health impact

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



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



Policies



Existence of national policy instruments for occupational health and safety for health workers



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



Health care facilities



Percentage of health care facilities without basic services

Water



33%

Sanitation



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Hygiene



43%

Waste management



69%



Percentage of health care facilities without reliable electricity supply

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Climate assessment conducted for:



Climate resilience



Environmental sustainability



Existence of standards for WASH in health care facilities



Existence of standards for health care waste management



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_{2.5}); 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:** IEA 2023: Share of modern renewables in total final energy consumption • 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: 2023 WHO review of health in nationally determined contributions and long-term strategies: health at the heart of the Paris Agreement • ATACH baselines, 2024 data **Biodiversity:** World Bank Group, Terrestrial and marine protected areas, 2022 data • World Population Review 2024: Deforestation rates by country • Data source: FAO 2020 data. FAO 2020: Global Forest Resources Assessment • CBD Online Reporting Tool 2024 **Chemicals:** WHO: International Health Regulations core capacity scores, 2023 data •

IHME: Lead exposure estimates 1990-2021, 2021 data • WHO: Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisonings; data for 2021 • WHO: Legally binding controls for lead paint, updated 2024 • WHO: World directory of poisons centres, updated 2024 • UNEP: Minamata Convention on Mercury, 2024 data. **Radiation:** WHO: International Health Regulations core capacity scores, 2023 data • WHO: Deaths from melanoma and other skin cancers, 2021 data • IHME: Deaths from residential radon, 2021 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 2024 • 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, 2023 data • ILO ratifications of C155, C161 and C187, updated 2024. **Health care facilities:** WHO/UNICEF 2024: WASH in health care facilities 2023 data update: special focus on primary health care • WHO: Database on electrification of health-care facilities, updated 2023 • WHO: Health and Climate Change Global Survey • WHO/UNICEF Country progress tracker, updated 2023.

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. Update 2024.