

**Checklist for rapid assessment of policies and actions**

**in environment, climate change and health**

Scaling up country actions for environment, climate change and health

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country:** |  | **Date:** |  |

Note: This checklist is to be used for an assessment by a professional with a background in environmental health.

Within the framework of scaling up action for health and the environment in countries, this checklist assists in rapidly assessing a country’s policies and actions in the areas of the environment, climate change and health. Together with the [Health and environment scorecards](https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/monitoring/scorecards), this checklist helps to identify actions needed to create a healthy environment and to mitigate as well as adapt to climate change to ensure greater health protection. By assessing each environmental risk factor separately, it allows individual gaps to be identified, and these may assist in developing additional national policies and actions.

Although this checklist may not cover all areas that need improvement, it does cover the most important environmental health risk factors.

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***Please complete the checklist; additional comments are welcome and can be added at the end of each section.***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Air pollution | |  |  |  |
| Ambient air pollution  Situation assessment | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Is there a monitoring system for ambient air quality? (If the answer is no, please go to question 6.) | |  |  |  |
| 1. Which of the following pollutants are monitored? | |  |  |  |
| 1. PM2.5 | |  |  |  |
| 1. PM10 | |  |  |  |
| 1. O3 | |  |  |  |
| 1. NO2 | |  |  |  |
| 1. SO2 | |  |  |  |
| 1. CO | |  |  |  |
| 1. black/elemental carbon | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is air pollution monitored daily? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is air pollution monitored in most cities and in some rural areas? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are air quality monitoring data published on a publicly accessible website? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has a [source apportionment study](https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/air-pollution/source-apportionment-db) been conducted to assist in identifying the main sources of air pollution, and is it publicly available? | |  |  |  |
| Policies and actions | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are air quality standards for the main air pollutants in place (e.g. PM2.5, PM10, O3, SO2, NO2)? (If the answer is no, please go to question 9.) | |  |  |  |
| 1. For which of the following pollutants do standards exist? | |  |  |  |
| 1. PM2.5 | |  |  |  |
| Are they in line with [WHO’s Air quality guidelines (2021)](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/what-are-the-who-air-quality-guidelines)? | |  |  |  |
| 1. PM10 | |  |  |  |
| Are they in line with [WHO’s Air quality guidelines (2021)](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/what-are-the-who-air-quality-guidelines)? | |  |  |  |
| 1. O3 | |  |  |  |
| Are they in line with [WHO’s Air quality guidelines (2021)](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/what-are-the-who-air-quality-guidelines)? | |  |  |  |
| 1. NO2 | |  |  |  |
| Are they in line with [WHO’s Air quality guidelines (2021](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/what-are-the-who-air-quality-guidelines))? | |  |  |  |
| 1. SO2 | |  |  |  |
| Are they in line with [WHO’s Air quality guidelines (2021)](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/what-are-the-who-air-quality-guidelines)? | |  |  |  |
| 1. CO | |  |  |  |
| Are they in line with [WHO’s Air quality guidelines (2021](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/what-are-the-who-air-quality-guidelines))? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is the health argument being considered in policies developed by other sectors? Is a policy dialogue ongoing between health and other sectors that significantly impacts the formulation of policies? Review the following sectors: | |  |  |  |
| 1. transport | |  |  |  |
| 1. industry | |  |  |  |
| 1. power generation | |  |  |  |
| 1. waste and wastewater | |  |  |  |
| 1. agriculture | |  |  |  |
| 1. land use and urban planning | |  |  |  |
| 1. housing. | |  |  |  |
| Awareness raising and capacity building | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is the population aware of the health effects of air pollution, personal protection measures, vulnerable population groups and recommended behaviours? (If the answer is no, please go to question 11.) | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are air pollution alerts accessible in the media or on a website? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is guidance publicly accessible about personal protection in case of high levels of air pollution? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is information publicly accessible about the adverse health effects of air pollution? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is guidance available about solutions and interventions to reduce air pollution at the individual level (e.g. choices about active and sustainable transport)? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have air pollution exposure and its health impacts been included as specific subjects in medical curricula? | |  |  |  |
| Household air pollution  This section is relevant if the population uses so-called dirty fuels and technologies in the household (e.g. for cooking). The following fuels and technologies are considered [clean for cooking](https://www.who.int/tools/clean-household-energy-solutions-toolkit/module-7-defining-clean): solar, electric, biogas, natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas (or LPG) and alcohol fuels, including ethanol.  If the population is not using dirty fuels and technologies, please go to the next section, Dampness and mould.  Situation assessment | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Is the use of household fuels and technologies for cooking and heating being monitored nationwide? | |  |  |  |
| Policies and actions | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are strategies or policies in place for promoting the use of clean fuels and technologies for household energy? | |  |  |  |
| Awareness raising and capacity building | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are clean technologies and fuel being promoted to the population, and are health-protective behaviours being encouraged? | |  |  |  |
| Dampness and mould | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Are national regulations, strategies and campaigns in place that address preventing dampness and mould in housing and prioritizing healthy, well-insulated buildings? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has information about dampness and mould been disseminated to the public and to the housing and construction sectors? | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Comments on Section 1, Air pollution** | |  |  |  |
| 1. Water, sanitation and hygiene | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Have sufficient and safe water, sanitation and hygiene services been provided to households? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have sufficient and safe water, sanitation and hygiene services been provided to schools? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have sufficient and safe water, sanitation and hygiene services been provided to workplaces? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have sufficient and safe water, sanitation and hygiene services been provided to public places? | |  |  |  |
| Drinking water | |  |  |  |
| Situation assessment | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is a system in place for monitoring the proportion of the population using [safely managed drinking-water services](https://washdata.org/monitoring/drinking-water)? | |  |  |  |
| Policies and actions | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are quality standards in place for drinking-water? (If the answer is no, please go to question 3.) | |  |  |  |
| * 1. Are they in line with [WHO’s guidelines for drinking-water quality](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241549950)? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are drinking-water supplies protected by [water safety plans](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241562638)? | |  |  |  |
| Awareness raising and capacity building | |  |  |  |
| 1. If water is not safe to drink, have point-of-use or household drinking-water treatment options and safe storage been promoted as interim solutions while infrastructure improvements are being implemented? | |  |  |  |
| Recreational water  Policies and actions | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Are national [health-based targets](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240031302) in place for the quality of recreational water bodies? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are [recreational water safety plans](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240031302) in place for priority bathing sites and for pool safety? | |  |  |  |
| Sanitation  Situation assessment | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is a system in place for monitoring the proportion of the population using [safely managed sanitation services](https://washdata.org/monitoring/sanitation)? | |  |  |  |
| Policies and actions | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have policies been implemented to improve access to sanitation and use of these services that are in line with WHO’s [Guidelines on sanitation and health](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241514705)? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are [sanitation safety plans](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240062887) in place? | |  |  |  |
| 1. If open defecation is an issue, are strategies and campaigns in place to eliminate it? | |  |  |  |
| Personal hygiene  Situation assessment | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are handwashing facilities with soap and water available in households and public places, such as schools and health care facilities? | |  |  |  |
| Awareness raising and capacity building | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has regular handwashing been promoted? | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Comments on Section 2, Water, sanitation and hygiene** | |  |  |  |
| 1. Waste management   Policies and actions | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Is an official waste management system in place that prioritizes waste reduction, reuse, recycling, energy recovery and appropriate disposal? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are policies in place to phase out single-use plastics? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is the management of hazardous wastes regulated? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are policies in place to protect people, especially children, from exposure to hazardous wastes? | |  |  |  |
| Awareness raising and capacity building | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are strategies and campaigns in place to encourage households to reduce waste? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are strategies and campaigns in place to help people and organizations reduce and avoid contact with hazardous waste as well as to raise awareness about it, including, for example, hospital waste, industrial waste and e-waste? | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Comments on Section 3, Waste management** | |  |  |  |
| 1. Climate change   Situation assessment | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Have the health risks of climate change been assessed? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have the concurrent benefits to health of climate action been assessed? | |  |  |  |
| Policies and actions | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are strategies and actions in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other climate-changing pollutants, such as black carbon? (If the answer is no, please go to question 4.)   Are there specific reduction strategies actions targeting the following sectors: | |  |  |  |
| * 1. transport | |  |  |  |
| * 1. energy | |  |  |  |
| * 1. industry | |  |  |  |
| * 1. agriculture | |  |  |  |
| * 1. forestry | |  |  |  |
| * 1. land use and urban planning | |  |  |  |
| * 1. health | |  |  |  |
| * 1. housing | |  |  |  |
| * 1. other (specify). | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have plans and strategies been developed to address climate-sensitive health risks? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have the following been developed? | |  |  |  |
| * 1. [Health National Adaptation Plans](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240018983) | |  |  |  |
| * 1. [Healthy Nationally Determined Contributions](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240000674) | |  |  |  |
| * 1. [Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategies](https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/long-term-strategies) | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has the country committed to reach sustainable and low-carbon health systems? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has the country committed to reach climate-resilient health systems and facilities? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has the Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme for health been accessed? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are climate-informed health surveillance and early warning systems in place (e.g. for heatwaves)? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Do water and sanitation safety planning include assessments of climate risks and vulnerabilities? | |  |  |  |
| Awareness raising and capacity building | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has the population been made aware of the health effects of climate change (e.g. those resulting from extreme weather events, air pollution and long-term threats, such as food insecurity), personal protection measures, vulnerable population groups and recommended mitigation behaviours? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has information about adverse exposures resulting from climate change, their health impacts and potential mitigation strategies, solutions and interventions been included in medical curricula? | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Comments on Section 4, Climate change** | |  |  |  |
| 1. Nature and health   Policies and actions | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Have biodiversity and ecosystem protections been included in relevant national and regional policies, strategies and programmes? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have sufficient financial resources been allocated to protect nature, biodiversity and the ecosystem? | |  |  |  |
| Awareness raising and capacity building | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has the public been informed about the health benefits of protecting biodiversity and the ecosystem? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have educational programmes and training about the importance of the links between health and biodiversity been developed at various levels? | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Comments on Section 5, Nature and health** | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| 1. Safe environments and mobility   Policies and actions | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Have policies and interventions been implemented to improve road safety, especially for cyclists and pedestrians? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Do all streets have infrastructure for walking and cycling? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have policies and interventions been implemented that promote walking, cycling and nonmotorized transport? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is public transportation available for all? (If the answer is no, please go to question 5.)   If so, is it: | |  |  |  |
| * 1. safe? | |  |  |  |
| * 1. accessible? | |  |  |  |
| * 1. convenient? | |  |  |  |
| * 1. affordable? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is green open space available for all, including for safe play, sports and recreation? | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Comments on Section 6, Safe environments and mobility** | |  |  |  |
| 1. Chemical safety   Policies and actions | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Has [WHO’s Chemicals road map](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-FWC-PHE-EPE-17.03) been implemented? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are adequate poison centres available? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are the [core capacities of surveillance for and response to chemical events](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241509589) in place, as per the International Health Regulations (2005)? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have multilateral environmental agreements been implemented for chemicals and waste, particularly the health- protective aspects in the following: | |  |  |  |
| * 1. [Minamata Convention on Mercury](https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en) | |  |  |  |
| * 1. [Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal](http://www.basel.int/) | |  |  |  |
| * 1. [Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade](http://www.pic.int/) | |  |  |  |
| * 1. [Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](http://chm.pops.int/) | |  |  |  |
| * 1. [Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer](https://ozone.unep.org/treaties/montreal-protocol)? | |  |  |  |
| Awareness raising and capacity building | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has key information about hazardous chemicals been disseminated to decision-makers, the public and other stakeholders? (If the answer is no, please go to the comments section or Section 8.) | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has this been done specifically for the following chemicals of public health concern: | |  |  |  |
| * 1. air polluting chemicals | |  |  |  |
| * 1. arsenic | |  |  |  |
| * 1. asbestos | |  |  |  |
| * 1. benzene | |  |  |  |
| * 1. cadmium | |  |  |  |
| * 1. dioxins and dioxin-like substances | |  |  |  |
| * 1. inadequate or excess fluoride | |  |  |  |
| * 1. lead | |  |  |  |
| * 1. mercury | |  |  |  |
| * 1. highly hazardous pesticides? | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Comments on Section 7, Chemical safety** | |  |  |  |
| 1. Radiation   Policies and actions | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Are national sun protection policies and action plans in place? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are policies or standards that limit exposure to electromagnetic fields in place? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is a national radon action plan in place in countries where radon is an issue? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are national policies and plans for radiation emergencies in place? (If the answer is no, please go to the comments section or Section 9.) | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are the following aspects of radiation emergencies covered separately: | |  |  |  |
| * 1. prevention | |  |  |  |
| * 1. preparedness | |  |  |  |
| * 1. monitoring | |  |  |  |
| * 1. response | |  |  |  |
| * 1. recovery? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are [core capacities for surveillance of and response to radiation emergencies](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241580496) in place, as per the International Health Regulations (2005)? | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Comments on Section 8, Radiation** | |  |  |  |
| 1. Occupational and workplace health   Policies and actions | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Are national and sectoral initiatives in place to ensure [healthy, safe and resilient workplaces](https://www.who.int/activities/promoting-healthy-safe-and-resilient-workplaces-for-all) that address the determinants of health, including physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Is cooperation between the health and labour sectors in place to ensure health in the workplace and safe working conditions? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Do all workers have access to occupational health services as part of integrated primary health care services? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have essential occupational health interventions been implemented for the primary prevention of occupational and work-related diseases and injuries? | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Comments on Section 9, Occupational and workplace health** | |  |  |  |
| 1. Priority setting: housing and health care facilities | |  |  |  |
| Housing  Policies and actions | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Do housing policies take health into account, for example, in terms of insulation, safety equipment and vector control? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are strategies and actions in place to regulate the design and construction of new buildings so they incorporate sustainability and protect health? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are policies and programmes in place that have defined, prioritized target areas for improving the health and environmental aspects of existing housing? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Do the health and housing sectors collaborate to address inadequate housing? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Do housing strategies include planning for land use and transport that fosters active and sustainable transport and access to green space? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are planning for and construction of housing integrated into urban development strategies? | |  |  |  |
| Health care facilities  Policies and actions | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Are all health care facilities equipped with: | |  |  |  |
| * 1. adequate, reliable and safe water, sanitation and hygiene services? | |  |  |  |
| * 1. adequate waste management? | |  |  |  |
| * 1. a reliable electricity supply? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Are programmes in place to ensure the occupational health and safety of health workers at the national, subnational and facility levels? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has the country committed to a climate-resilient health system [as part of the COP26 Health Programme](https://www.who.int/initiatives/alliance-for-transformative-action-on-climate-and-health/country-commitments)? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has the country committed to a low-carbon, sustainable health system [as part of the COP26 Health Programme](https://www.who.int/initiatives/alliance-for-transformative-action-on-climate-and-health/country-commitments)? | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Comments on Section 10, Priority setting** | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Cross-cutting topics   Policies and actions | | Yes | Par-tially | No |
| 1. Is there cross-sectoral collaboration between health and other sectors, such as environment, traffic, energy, land use, urban planning and agriculture?    1. Is a dedicated governance mechanism in place? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Has [the Health in All Policies approach](https://www.who.int/activities/promoting-health-in-all-policies-and-intersectoral-action-capacities) been implemented? | |  |  |  |
| 1. Have Health Impact Assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments been implemented as standard tools required to evaluate the potential health effects of policies, programmes and interventions in all sectors? | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Comments on Section 11, Cross-cutting topics** | |  |  |  |

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