Update on WHO and TFH activities

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Presentation outline

- TFH meeting May 2016
- Planned activities for 2016-2017
- Relevant regional and global activities
Main agenda items

- National and international policies and processes on air quality and health
- Review of the progress in research on health impacts of air pollution
- Launch of the WHO AirQ+ software on the quantification of health impacts of air pollution
- Communication and public health messages for air pollution
- Monitoring and modeling of air pollution and its health impacts in countries of eastern Europe, the Caucasus and central Asia
- Discussion of current activities and work plan of TFH for 2016-2017

50 participants from 34 Member States

*Funding from Switzerland and Germany acknowledged*
AirQ+ training workshop: 20 May 2016

- Training workshop on the use of the WHO software AirQ+, including interactive presentation of case studies
  - Example of ongoing work for Serbia presented
  - Potential for use at global level highlighted
  - Enhanced capacity-building planned by WHO
  - Interest raised by several TFH participants for use of AirQ+ for national health risk assessment
  - Plan for dedicated session at next TFH
Activities 2016-2017

- Develop further the methodologies for assessment and quantification of direct and indirect effects of long-range transboundary air pollution on human health
  - WHO AirQ+ tool; capacity building at regional and sub-regional levels
- Collect and analyze the evidence on health impacts of ozone and particulate matter (including black carbon)
  - Update of WHO Air Quality Guidelines
- Assess the practices for communication of health risks associated with air pollution exposure
  - Overview on communication strategies/systems in different parties to the Convention – results of WHO survey
Update of WHO global air quality guidelines

• Ongoing (2016-2020)
• First scoping meeting of Guideline Development Group planned for 27-29 September 2016
  • Selection of pollutants, health outcomes, issues for consideration
  • Methodology for guideline development
  • Conduct of systematic reviews / meta-analyses in 2017-2018
• Funding/in-kind support received from the European Commission (DG-Env), Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, and US EPA
Health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution

The Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly,

\[\text{having considered the report on health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution;}\]

\[\text{reaffirming its commitment to the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference “The future we want”, in which all States Members of the United Nations committed to promoting sustainable development policies that support healthy air quality in the context of sustainable cities and human settlements, and recognized that reducing air pollution leads to positive effects on health;}\]

\[\text{noting with deep concern that indoor and outdoor air pollution are both among the leading avoidable causes of disease and death globally, and the world’s largest single environmental health risk;}\]

\[\text{acknowledging that 4.3 million deaths occur each year from exposure to household (indoor) air pollution and that 3.7 million deaths each year are attributable to ambient (outdoor) air pollution, at a high cost to societies;}\]

\[\text{aware that exposure to air pollutants, including fine particulate matter, is a leading risk factor for noncommunicable diseases in adults, including ischaemic heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma and cancer, and poses a considerable health threat to current and future generations;}\]

\[\text{concerned that half the deaths due to acute lower respiratory infections, including pneumonia in children aged less than five years, may be attributed to household air pollution, making it a leading risk factor for childhood mortality;}\]

\[\text{1 Document A68/18.}\]
\[\text{2 UNEA resolution 1/7, P96.}\]
\[\text{databases/AAF_BdD_results_March2014.pdf?ua=1 (accessed 1 December 2014).}\]
World Health Assembly Resolution 68.8 on air pollution and health

10. The proposed road map is organized into four categories:

(a) **Expanding the knowledge base:** Building and disseminating global evidence and knowledge relating to: the impacts on health of air pollution, the effectiveness (in health terms) of policies, and interventions to address air pollution and its sources that have been undertaken by different sectors. This includes identifying knowledge gaps and the promotion of innovation and research needed to address the impacts of air pollution on health.

(b) **Monitoring and reporting:** Enhancing systems, structures and processes needed to support monitoring and reporting on health trends associated with air pollution and its sources, and fulfilling the requirements of the resolution, while contributing to the monitoring of progress with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, targets 3.9, 7.1 and 11.6.

(c) **Global leadership and coordination:** Leveraging health sector leadership and coordinated action at the global, regional, country and city levels in order to enable an appropriate and adequate response to this major public health problem, and ensuring synergies with other global processes, such as the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and follow-up to the Paris Agreement.

(d) **Institutional capacity strengthening:** Building the capacity of the health sector in order to analyse and influence policy and decision-making processes in support of joint action on air pollution and health, for example, to support the development of strategies and action plans to reduce household and ambient air pollution health risks, through setting relevant policies at national level or in cities, as well as to support the implementation of recommendations from WHO air quality guidelines.
The WHA Resolution recognizes that:

(PP12) Noting that WHO’s air quality guidelines for both ambient air quality\(^2\) (2005) and indoor air quality\(^3\) (2014) provide guidance and recommendations for clean air that protect human health and recognizing that these need to be supported by activities, such as the promotion and facilitation of implementation;

...and requests the Director-General to significantly strengthen WHO’s capacities in the field of air pollution and health in order to provide:

(c) Further identification, development and regular updating of WHO air quality guidelines and cost-benefit tools, including monitoring systems, to support effective and efficient decision making;

Source: Sixty-Eighth WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Agenda item 14.6, 26 May 2015.
The WHA Resolution recognizes that:

(PP14 bis) Acknowledging that mobilizing national and, as appropriate, international resources is important for re-tooling relevant infrastructure which contributes to air pollution reduction is an integral element of global sustainable development, and that air pollution-related health impacts can be a health-relevant indicator for sustainable development policies;

requests the Director-General to significantly strengthen WHO’s capacities in the field of air pollution and health in order to provide:

(d) Enhanced technical capacity of WHO to collaborate, as appropriate, with relevant international, regional and national stakeholders, to compile and analyse data on air quality, with particular emphasis on health-related aspects of air quality;

(h) Appropriate advisory capacity and support tools to assist the health and other sectors at all levels of government, especially the local level and in urban areas, taking into account different sources of pollution in tackling air pollution and their health effects;

Source: Sixty-Eighth WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY Agenda item 14.6, 26 May 2015.
WHO Global Updates

- Preventing disease through healthy environments: a global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks (2016)
  - 12.6 million deaths each year attributable to unhealthy environments
  - 23% of global deaths are due to modifiable environmental factors


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WHO Global Updates

Updated AQ in cities database

- Now 3000 cities and towns covering the period 2008-2015
- More than 80% of people living in urban areas that monitor air pollution are exposed to levels exceeding WHO guidelines

http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/outdoorair/databases/cities/en/
SDGs and health-related indicators for air pollution

- **Target 3.9**: “By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination”

- **Indicator 3.9.1**: Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
Country-level BoD estimates for ambient air pollution

- Launch on 27 September
- Includes PM2.5 population exposure in urban and rural areas, premature deaths, YLLs, DALYs
- Crude mortality rate and age-adjusted, total and by gender
- Household air pollution estimates are not included but work continues for their update
Regional activities

6th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

7 emerging priority areas currently being negotiated for the Conference:

- ensuring the environmental sustainability of health systems
- safe and sustainable water and sanitation
- making European cities sustainable and resilient to global environmental change
- improving air quality
- eliminating threats to human health for countries in transition to the circular economy
- strengthening resilience to climate change
- promoting chemical safety