

## ISEA- September 2003



- TO EQUIP COUNTRIES WITH THE BEST KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY TO ENSURE THE HEALTH OF ALL THEIR POPULATIONS

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# Global burden of disease

- Over 30% due to environmental factors
- Over 40 % of this burden falls on children under 5 years
- 11 million children <5 ( 97% in developing countries) die annually-**over 90 % of these deaths are preventable**
- >600 million children live in poverty

# THREATS TO CHILDREN : *TRIPLE BURDEN OF DISEASE*

EMERGING EPIDEMICS OF  
NON-COMMUNICABLE  
DISEASES

NEW THREATS

AIR POLLUTION

PESTICIDES

Injuries, Traffic accidents

Neurodevelopmental,  
learning, and behavioral  
disorders

Cancer

Endocrine disruption

POVERTY



Persistent problems-  
*UNFINISHED AGENDA*”

Infectious diseases

Acute Respiratory

infections

Malaria

Measles

Diarrhea

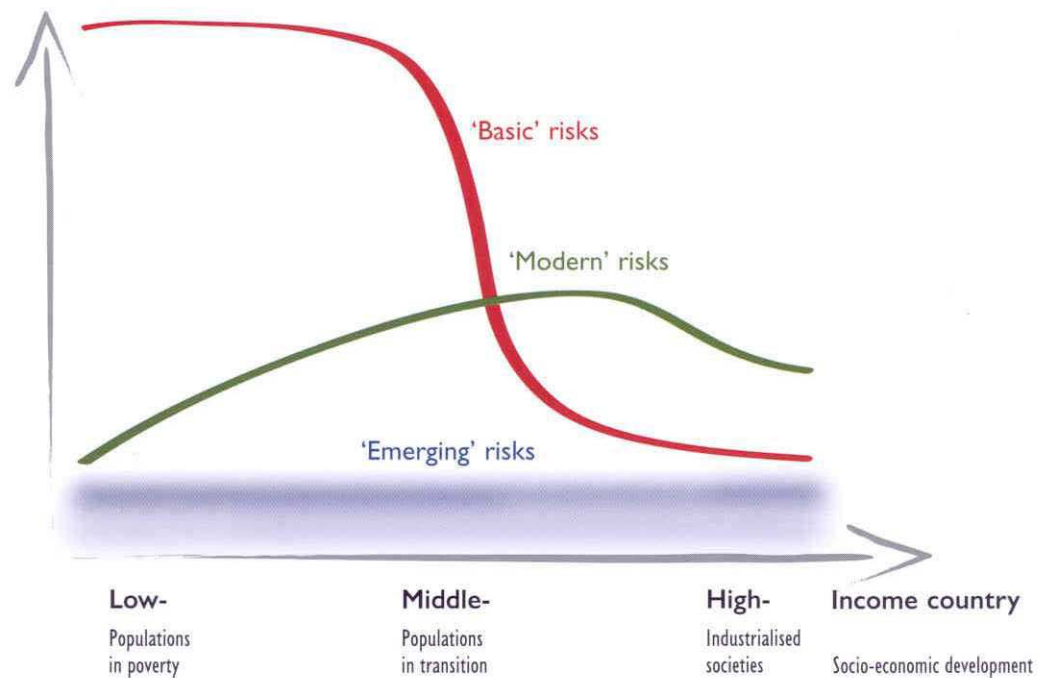
HIV/AIDS...



# OVERLAP OF ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Children in developing countries face risks from many sources of pollution. Children from all socio-economic backgrounds may also be vulnerable to 'emerging' risks.

The importance of environmental risks



## **WHO-ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

- GLOBAL STRUCTURE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION
- EXISTING DIVERSE NETWORKING ARRANGEMENTS
- ACCESS TO TECHNICAL EXPERTS
- INTERNATIONAL MANDATES
- GOVERNMENTAL COMMITMENTS

# PARTNERS (EXAMPLES)

- HEADQUARTERS—PHE, CAH, NHD,POV,ETC.
- WHO REGIONAL OFFICES, EHCS, COUNTRY OFFICES, COLLABORATING CENTERS
- UN, INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL(Ministries, Donors) ORGANIZATIONS.
- NGOS, SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES, ETC

## **CEH AND CHEMICALS- modest funding, multiple donors, strong support from multiple partners---MUCH ACCOMPLISHED**

- April 2000 Manilla Workshop
- Sept 2001 Global Forum, Washington DC
- March 2002 Bangkok International Conference
- May 2002 UN General Assembly Special Sess.
- Aug 2002 S. Africa- World Summit- WHO/healthy Alliance for Children
- 7 April 2003 – World Health Day- Healthy Environments for Children

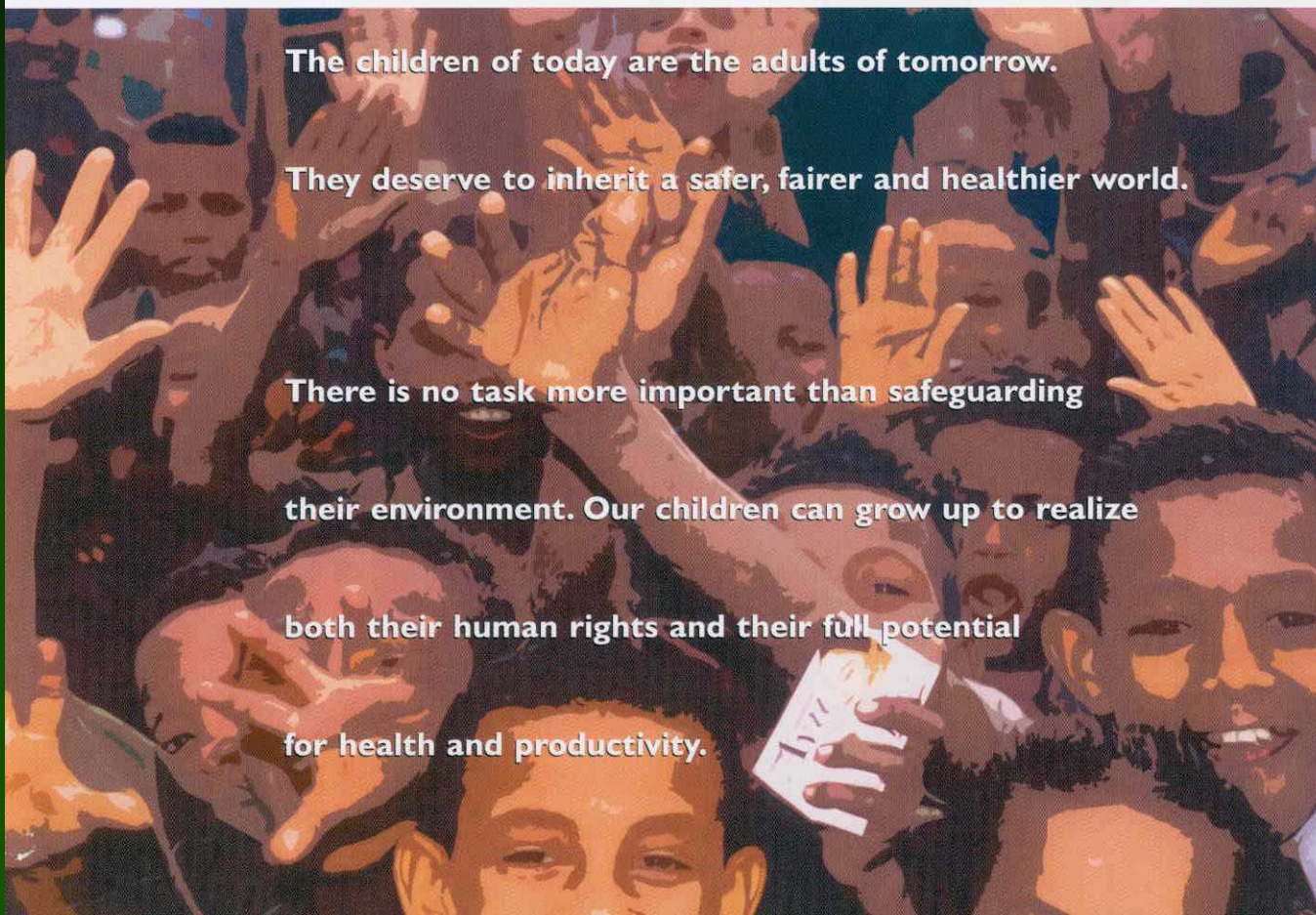
# Healthy Environments for Children

AN ALLIANCE TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF LIFE

The children of today are the adults of tomorrow.

They deserve to inherit a safer, fairer and healthier world.

There is no task more important than safeguarding their environment. Our children can grow up to realize both their human rights and their full potential for health and productivity.





# CHEMICALS AND CHILDREN-ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Harmonized data collection – and development of indicators
- **Improved risk assessment methodologies**
- CEH Handbook, training materials
- Pediatric environmental history taking
- National profiles-burden of disease data
- Promotion of collaborative research
- Regional workshops

# WHO/UNEP/ILO International Programme on Chemical Safety

[www.who.int/pcs](http://www.who.int/pcs) 1980

- Establish scientific basis for risk assessment and safe use of chemicals
- Global dissemination of data on risks of chemicals [www.inchem.org](http://www.inchem.org)
- Translation of data into country regulations, practical advice and guidance
- Strengthen national capabilities to address chemical safety concerns
- Work done through broad network of partners

## RISK ASSESSMENT-PROGRAMME AREAS

- Risk Assessment of priority chemicals
- Risk Assessment for Food Safety
- Risk Assessment Methodologies
- Harmonization of Risk Assessment
- Emerging Issues in Risk Assessment

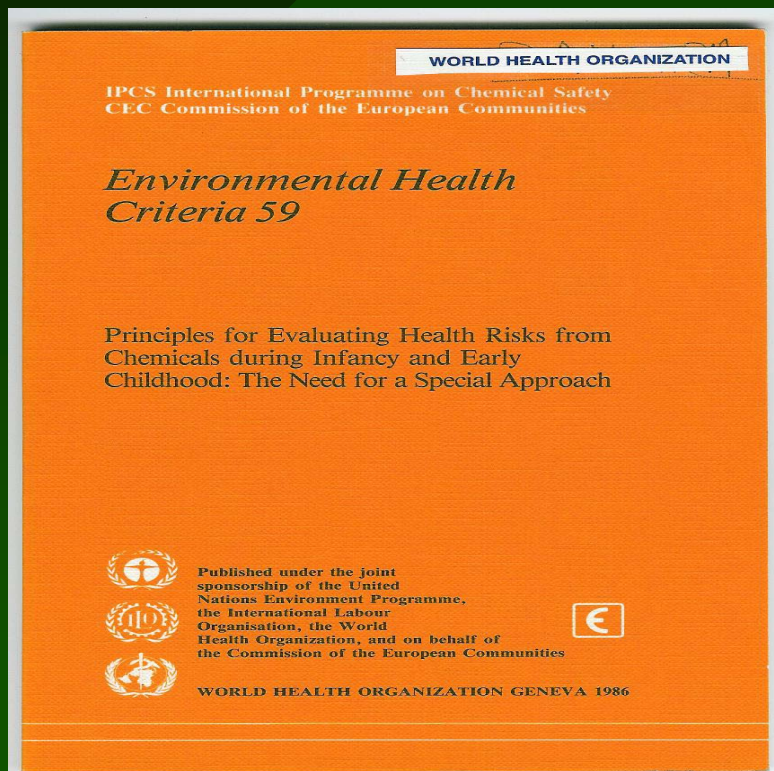
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# RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES

- General Principles (Human Exposure-2000)
- Principles of Assessing Effects on Specific Target Organs
- Principles/ Guidelines Types of Studies
- Principles of Assessing Risks in Susceptible Populations
- Harmonization
- Emerging Issues-
  - Global Assessment of the State-of-the-Science of EDCs

# Susceptible populations



- EHC30-Health risks exposure During pregnancy
- EHC 59- Infants /children (prenatal Early postnatal)
- In Progress-Principles for Evaluating Health risks in Children Associated With exposure to chemicals

## Children include all stages of development from preconception through adolescence

- EHC summarizes scientific knowledge base underlying hazard identification and risk assessment strategies in children
- It does NOT provide guidelines, protocols, or practical advice for the conduct of specific tests and studies
- Preliminary outline will be on IPCS website next month

# Focus of new EHC – Principles of R.A. - Children

- How exposure patterns, susceptibilities, mechanisms of toxicity, and risks change at different life stages
- What the implications of this information are for assessing risks from chemical exposures in children





***Prevention of exposure is the single most effective means of protecting children against environmental threats***