

Global Environmental Public Health Governance in COVID-19

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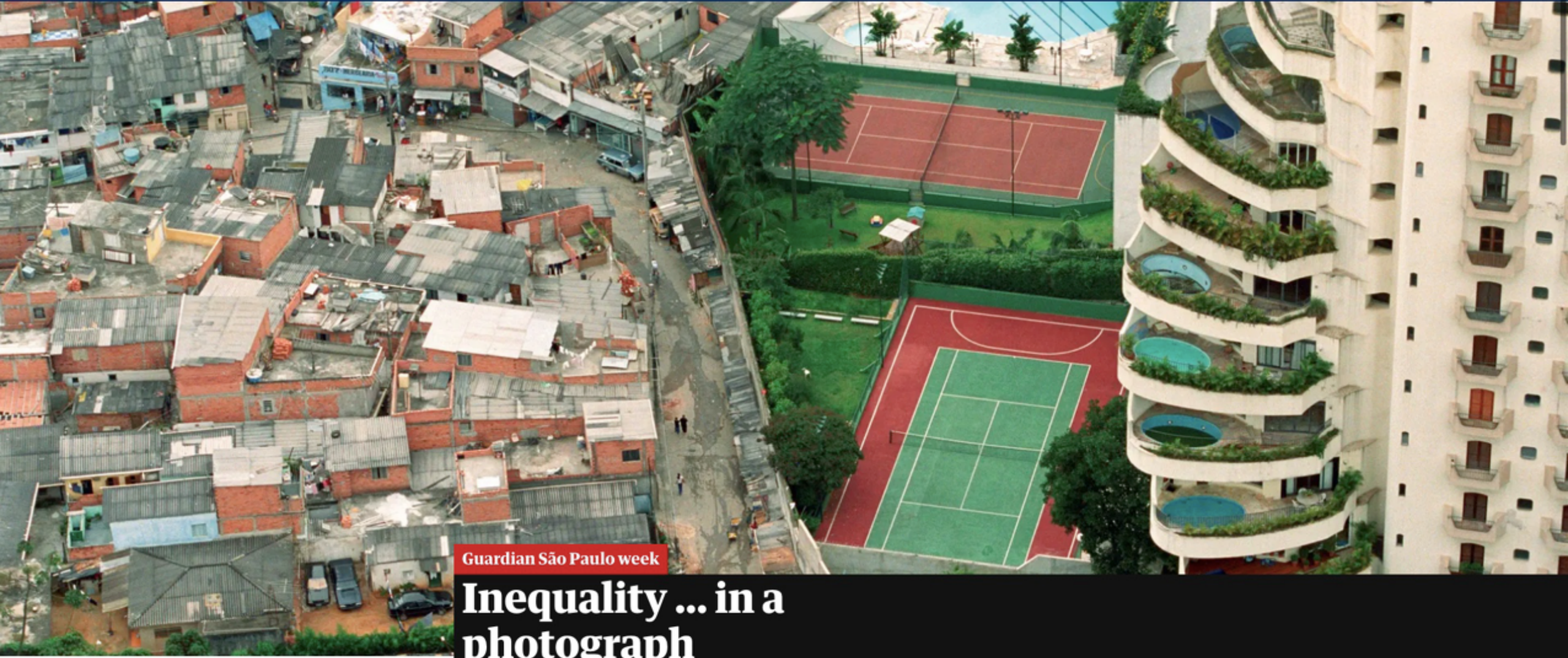
PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas



Guardian São Paulo week

Inequality ... in a photograph

▲ Paraisópolis, a favela in São Paulo, next to its wealthy neighbour Morumbi. Photograph: Tuca Vieira

In 2004, photographer Tuca Vieira captured the image of the Paraisópolis favela next to its wealthy neighbour, Morumbi, that came to symbolise the

The view point from PAHO

- Technical Notes
- Guidelines
- Webinars



WHO Global Strategy on Health, Environment, and Climate Change

Strategic Objectives

- Primary prevention
- Cross-sectoral action
- Strengthened health sector
- Building political and social support
- Enhanced evidence and communication
- Monitoring

PAHO Plan of Action 2020-2030

Goal

Reduce the burden of disease and inequity in health attributable to environmental risks in the Region.

Objective

Strengthen the capacity of health actors in all sectors to address and adapt to EDH, prioritizing populations living in situations of vulnerability.

Strategic Actions

- Improve the performance of environmental public health programs
- Strengthen environmental public health surveillance
- Foster an environmentally responsible and resilient health sector
- Promote environmentally healthy and resilient cities and communities

Thematic Areas



Climate Change and Health



Chemical Safety



Food Safety



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Air Quality and Health

Strategic Actions

- Improve the performance of environmental public health programs
- Strengthen environmental public health surveillance
- Foster an environmentally healthy and resilient health system
- Promote environmentally healthy and resilient cities and communities

- Revitalize environmental public health programs.
- Enhance health sector collaboration with other sectors.
- Strengthen the technical capacity of workforce.

Thematic Areas



Climate Change and Health



Chemical Safety



Food Safety



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Air Quality and Health

Strategic Actions

- Improve the performance of environmental public health programs
- Strengthen environmental public health surveillance
- Foster and strengthen resilient cities and communities
- Promote resilient cities and communities

- Strengthen environmental public health surveillance systems.
- Strengthen network of WHO Collaborating Centers.

Thematic Areas



Climate Change and Health



Chemical Safety



Food Safety



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Air Quality and Health

Strategic Actions

- Improve the performance of the health sector in environmental health
- Strengthen surveillance
- Foster an environmentally responsible and resilient health sector
- Promote environmentally healthy and resilient cities and communities

- Reduce environmental footprint of the health sector.
- Providing adequate environmental infrastructure and services in health care facilities.

Thematic Areas



Climate Change and Health



Chemical Safety



Food Safety



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Air Quality and Health

Strategic Actions

- Improve the performance of the environmental health sector
- Strengthen environmental health surveillance systems
- Foster an environmentally responsible and resilient health sector
- Promote environmentally healthy and resilient cities and communities

- Integrate environmental public health in cities and communities' health and development programs.

Thematic Areas



Climate Change and Health



Chemical Safety



Food Safety



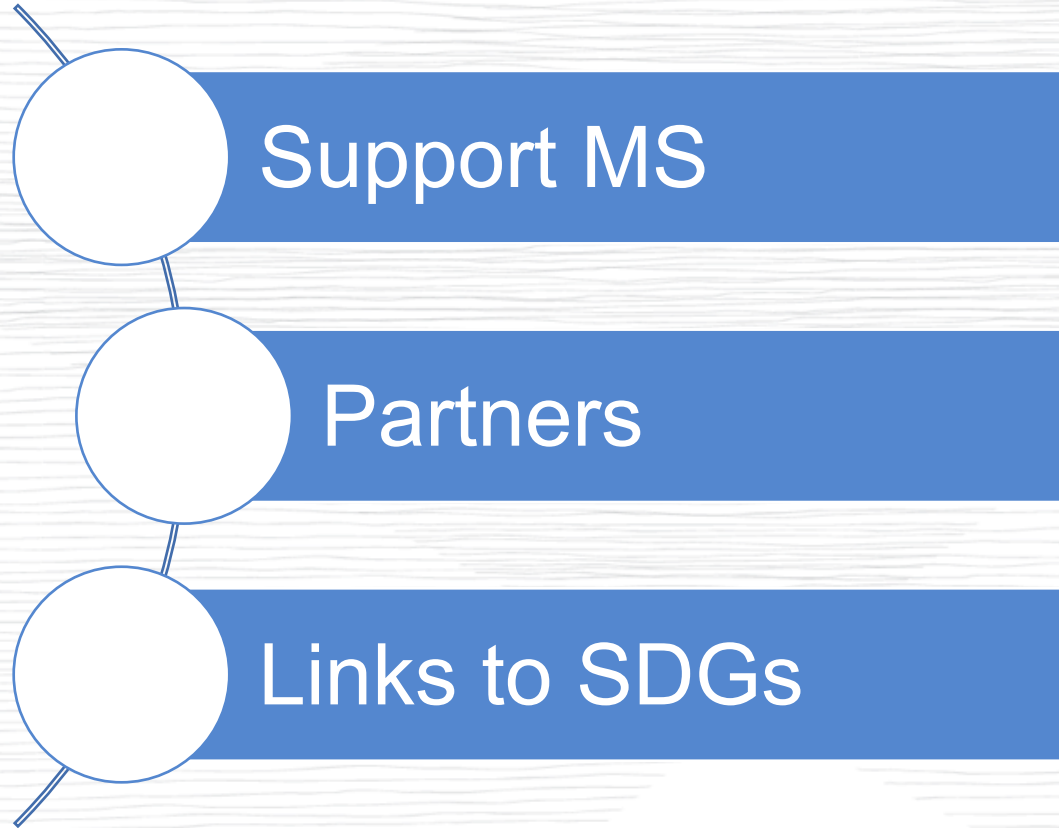
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Air Quality and Health

The view point from PAHO

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IHR (2005)

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR)

– from policy to people's health security

What are the IHR?

The IHR are legally binding and help countries work together to protect lives threatened by the spread of diseases and other health risks, including radiation and chemical hazards



5 reasons why the IHR matter



HEALTH THREATS HAVE NO BORDERS

The IHR strengthen countries' abilities to control diseases that cross borders at ports, airports and ground crossings



TRAVEL AND TRADE ARE MADE SAFER

The IHR promote trade and tourism in countries and prevent economic damage



GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY IS ENHANCED

The IHR establish an early warning system not only for diseases but for anything that threatens human health and livelihoods



DAILY THREATS ARE KEPT UNDER CONTROL

The IHR guide countries to detect, assess and respond to threats and inform other countries quickly



ALL SECTORS BENEFIT

The IHR prepare all sectors for potential emergencies through coordination and information sharing

Until all sectors are on board with the IHR, no country is ready

www.euro.who.int/ihr

Events detected by national surveillance system

A case of the following diseases is unusual or unexpected and may have serious public health impact, and thus shall be notified:

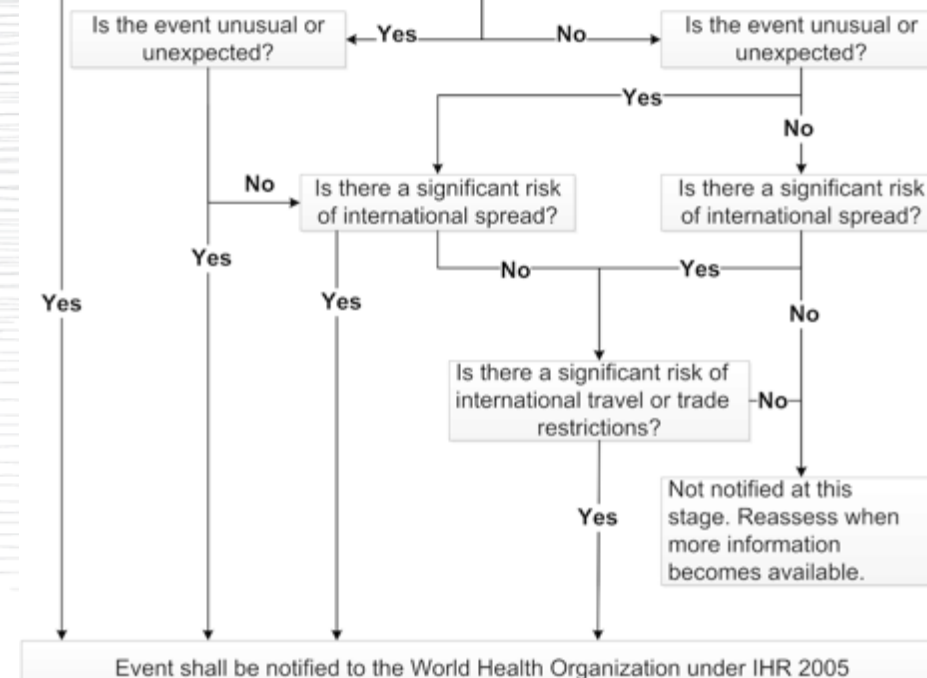
- Smallpox
- Poliomyelitis due to wild-type poliovirus
- Human influenza caused by a new subtype
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)

Any event of potential international public health concern, including those of unknown causes or sources

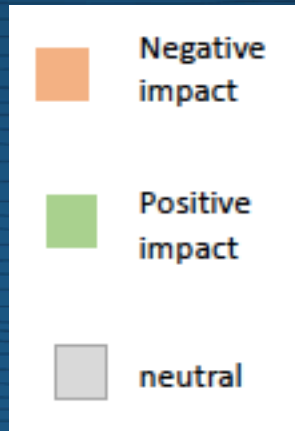
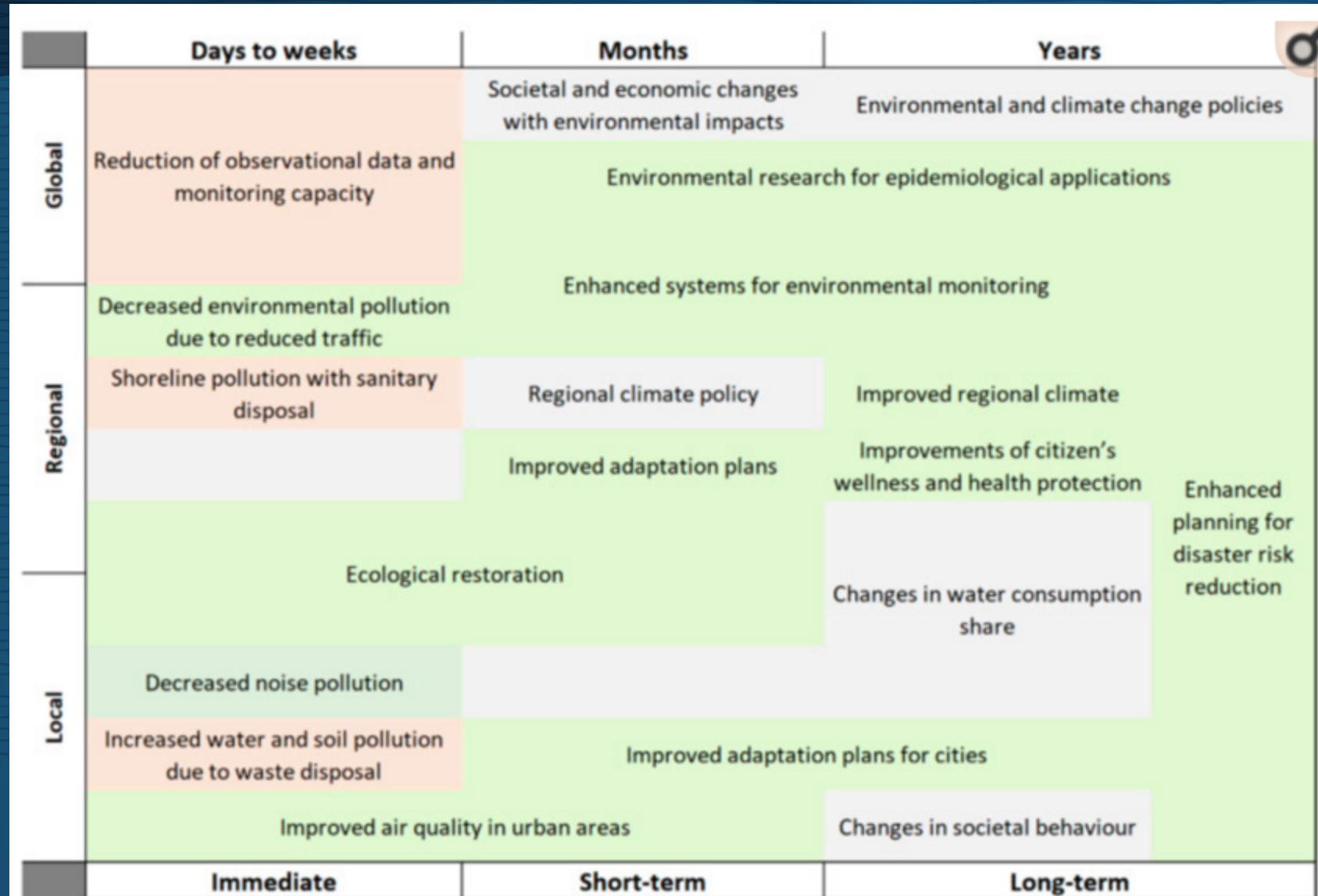
Is the public health impact of the event serious?

An event involving the following diseases:

- Cholera
- Pneumonic plague
- Yellow fever
- Viral haemorrhagic fevers (Ebola, Lassa, Marburg)
- West Nile fever
- Other diseases that are of special national or regional concern, e.g. dengue fever, Rift Valley fever, and meningococcal disease.



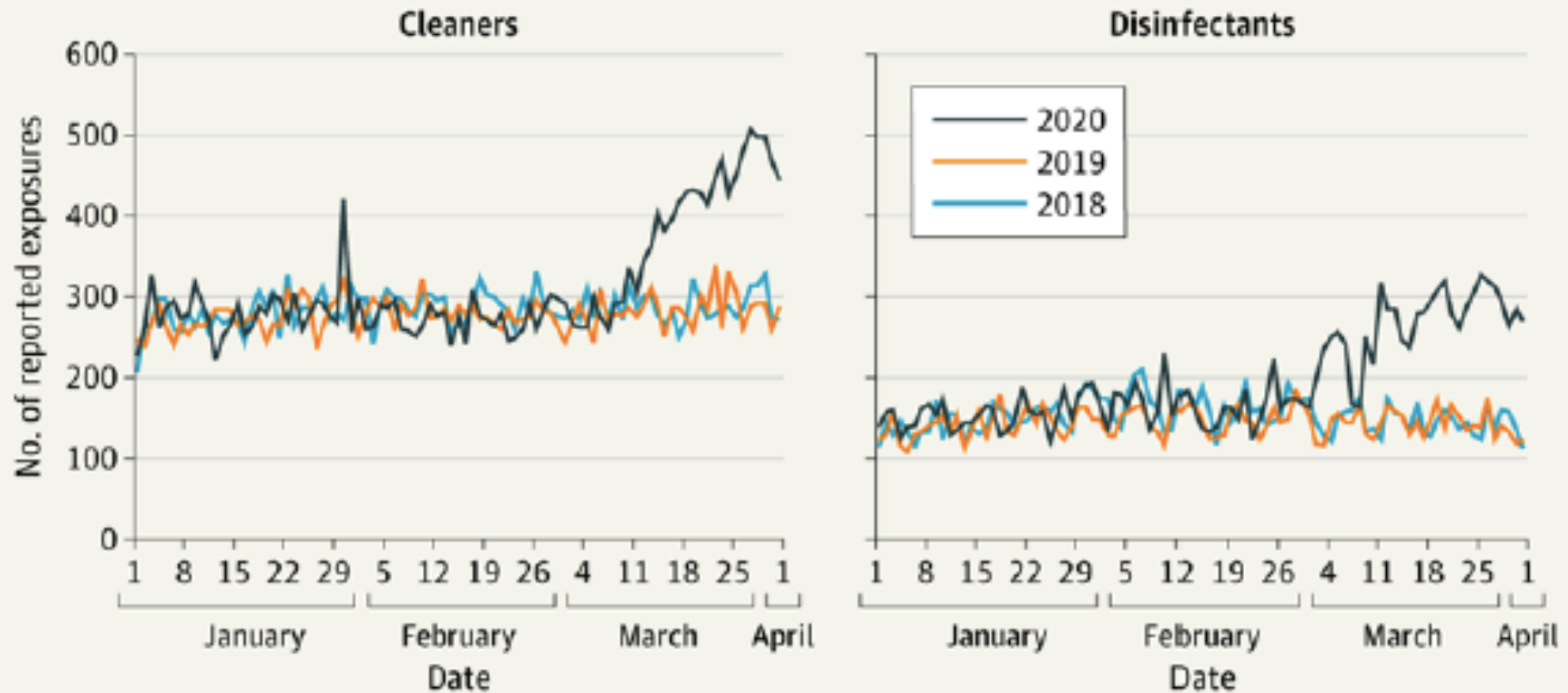
Observed and potential impacts of COVID-19 on the environment and climate change



1Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Jun; 17(11): 4140. Published online 2020 Jun 10. doi: 10.3390/ijerph17114140

2Haileyesus Getahun, Ingrid Smith, Kavita Trivedi, Sarah Paulina & Hanan H Balkhy. Tackling antimicrobial resistance in the COVID-19 pandemic. Bull World Health Organ 2020;98:442–442A | doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.20.268573>

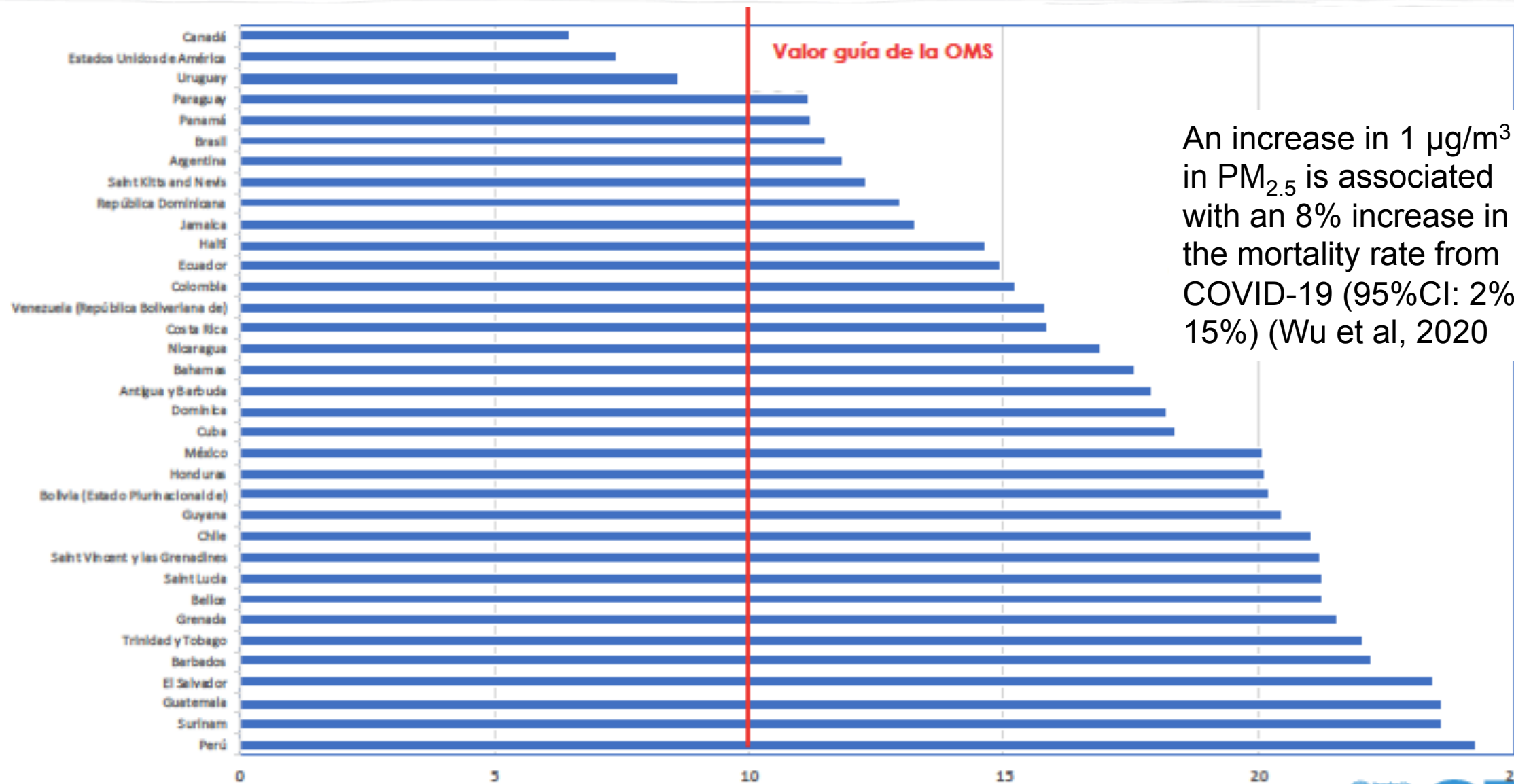
Number of Daily Exposures to Cleaners and Disinfectants Reported to US Poison Centers – United States, January–March 2018, 2019, and 2020^a



^a Increase in exposures to cleaners on January 29, 2020, came from an unintentional exposure to a cleaning agent within a school.

Source: *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2020;69(16):496-498.

National Average PM 2.5 concentrations 2016



An increase in 1 µg/m³ in PM_{2.5} is associated with an 8% increase in the mortality rate from COVID-19 (95%CI: 2%, 15%) (Wu et al, 2020)

THE EPH TECHNICAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS ON
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE
COVID - 19¹

INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER AND SANITATION



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS ON
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE
COVID - 19¹

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS ON
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE
COVID - 19¹
IN THE COMMUNITY



Climate Change and Environmental
Determinants of Health Unit

COVID-19

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE STANDARDS IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

COVID-19

RECOMMENDATIONS ON PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN HEALTH CARE
FACILITIES

COVID-19

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTE

COVID-19

RECOMMENDATIONS OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR SANITATION WORKERS

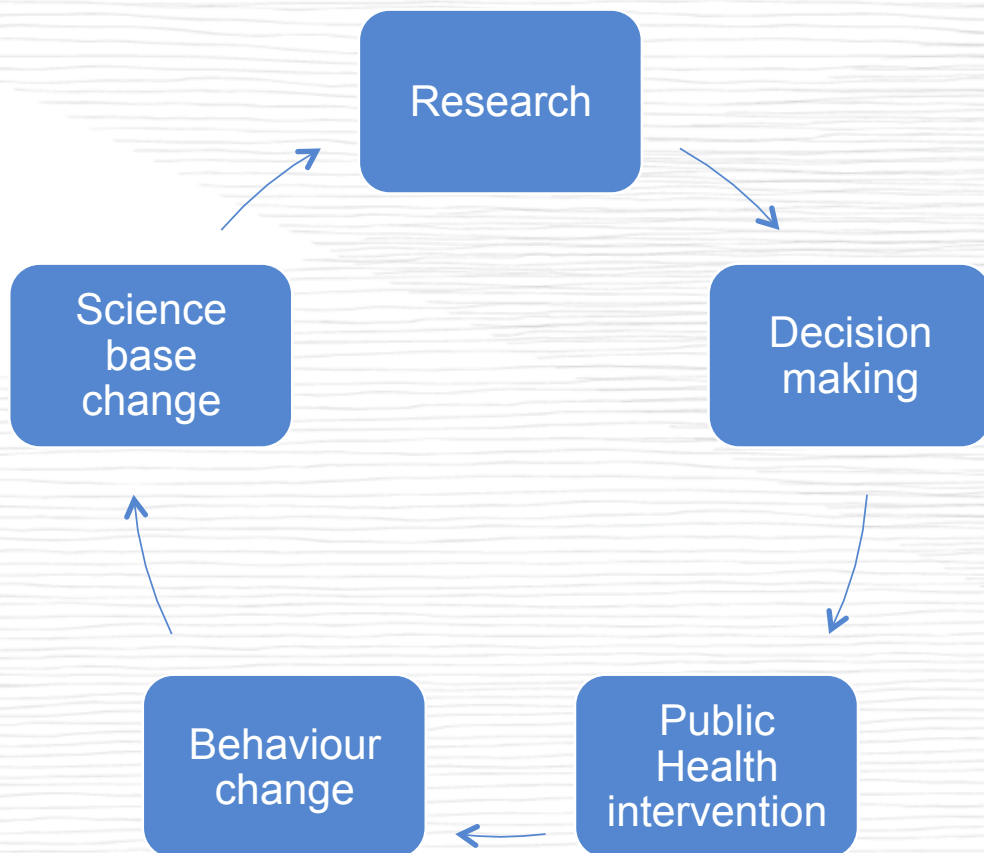
WASTE WATER, MUNICIPAL WASTE, RECYCLING, AND HEALTH CARE WASTE

Ensure that protective measures are applied for workers in the management of wastewater and solid

Webinars

- Chemical Safety
- HCWM
- Waste
- WASH
- EPH in Camps and shelter
- SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater
- Facebook Live sessions

Partners



- WHO
- AIDIS
- UN Environment
- UNICEF
- Universities (Perdue, ...)
- Research bodies (FIOCRUZ)
- Global Water 2020

Link to SDGs



Barriers to good governance



- Environmental public health policy processes informal and ambiguous
- Environmental public health only slightly integrated in other health sector policies
- Chronic shortage of human, technical, and financial resources
- Policies in sectors with relevance to health set without recognition of their impacts on environmental public health

What have we learnt from the Pandemic in EPH?

- Environmental Public Health is not well integrated into the actions of the Health Systems, although it is essential to ensure the protection of the health of the population and the prevention of diseases
- Personal hygiene (hand washing, respiratory etiquette) is not within cultural norms.
- There are no technical, human and financial resources for proper hand hygiene or infection prevention in health facilities
- The management of hospital waste is limited in most countries, increasing the risk of infections
- Community knowledge about the safe use of chemicals is inadequate to protect the population from accidental poisonings
- Ventilation in closed environments tends to be poor
- Many countries do not have experience in wastewater epidemiology which is important not only for the pandemic but for antimicrobial resistance and communicable disease surveillance.

What should we do in EPH to prepare for future situations?

- Advocate for the importance of environmental public health in health systems and responses to outbreaks through active presence in sector tables and strengthening of intersectoral tables (WASH)
- Strengthen Public Environmental Health entities in the countries to better integrate them into the response
- Implement environmental public health analysis of health facilities and disseminate their results widely
- Advocate in an integrated way with water and sanitation entities so that no one is left behind, and that everyone has access to safe water and sanitation services and appropriate solid waste collection systems
- Ensure the availability of information on environmental public health and environmental infrastructure indicators through an integrated environmental public health information system

A shared responsibility



- ✓ Call to action to the environmental public health community to lead
- ✓ Use of the power of partnerships and knowledge
- ✓ Engagement of all relevant stakeholders