

# Health and Pollution Action Plans

**Accelerating Actions to Reduce Pollution and its Impacts on Public Health**



## The Health and Pollution Action Plan Program

The Health and Pollution Action Plan (HPAP) program is designed to assist governments of low- and middle-income countries to develop and implement solutions to pollution-related health challenges. The HPAP program is facilitated by the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP), a consortium of national Ministries of Health and Environment, international development banks, United Nations agencies, bilateral development agencies, NGOs and other actors working on pollution ([www.gahp.net](http://www.gahp.net)). The HPAP program brings together national Ministries of Environment, Health, Industry, Transport, Energy, Mining, Agriculture and others to advance concrete actions to solve pollution and health problems.

The goals of the HPAP program are:

1. Assist governments to identify, evaluate and prioritize existing pollution issues based on health impacts
2. Establish pollution as a priority for action within national agencies and development plans
3. Define and advance concrete projects to reduce pollution exposures and related illnesses

The HPAP program is a collaborative process of research, prioritization and planning of pollution management actions. The HPAP process is driven by national agencies, facilitated and supported by GAHP. It is implemented at a Ministry's request, and typically at no cost to the host government.

The HPAP differs from other planning process because it is intentionally structured to bring together different agencies and parties who usually do not work closely together. It is intended to promote collaboration, and have well-defined and practical outcomes, including commitments by all the participants to undertake specific short- and medium-term actions for improved environmental health. The HPAP will clearly define what can be done with current resources and what could be achieved with further support, in terms of regulation, technical capacity and investment. GAHP can help participants identify additional resources and support engagement with donors.

**The HPAP process is flexible and tailored to the needs of each country, but generally includes the following steps:**

### PHASE 1.

The HPAP process begins with a period of data collection. A GAHP member (such as Pure Earth, UNIDO, UNDP or other) leads this process in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Environment. The aim is to organize and analyze all available information on national sources, types of pollution, health impacts associated with pollution exposures, and existing pollution management programs. This phase results in a preliminary report identifying major pollution issues of concern.



### PHASE 2.

Senior representatives from relevant government agencies and international organizations assemble for an Inception Meeting to review available data, identify data gaps, share information about ongoing programs, and establish a common approach to prioritizing pollution issues. Facilitators from GAHP and representatives from national agencies present data on pollution challenges and associated health impacts. The outcome of the Inception Meeting is agreement

on the scope, timeline, process, and roles and responsibilities for creating the Action Plan. A Working Group is appointed to represent the government in the Action Plan development process.



### PHASE 3.

In the 6-12 months following the Inception Meeting, the Working Group and facilitators from GAHP conduct a review of priority pollution sources, types, concentrations, exposures, and related health and economic impacts. This information is summarized in the Action Plan report. The participants designate a small number (typically 2-5) of high priority pollution issues, which are selected based on their impacts to public health or because they represent a major gap in the current response. For each high priority issue, the Working Group designs an intervention and creates a concept note for the intervention that can be used to create funding proposals and secure resources. The complete Health and Pollution Action Plan is then sent to all stakeholders for review and comment.

### PHASE 4.

Participants assemble for a final Validation Meeting to review the Health and Pollution Action Plan and validate the roadmap describing

priority pollutants and recommended actions and interventions to reduce exposures.

### PHASE 5.

Once the Action Plan is validated, GAHP members work with national agencies and international development organizations to integrate the Action Plan into domestic initiatives and international development programs, identify funding sources and accelerate concrete actions to reduce health impacts.

The Action Plan does not have a tightly defined format and can be modified to meet the needs of the host government. It is a living document, subject to review and revision when circumstances change.



For more information about GAHP or the Health and Pollution Action Plan program contact:

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