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2020 was an active and productive year for GAHP. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, GAHP was hard at work raising awareness of the global scope of the pollution problem, holding over 100 virtual meetings and events to share findings from the 2017 Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health and call attention to the severity of lead poisoning in low- and middle-income countries.

International attention to pollution is growing: the UN Environment Program identified pollution as one of the three key pillars of its 2022-2025 strategy, and the Leader’s Pledge for Nature, signed by representatives of over 80 countries, calls for action to reduce pollution and its impacts on planetary sustainability. Three countries have completed Health and Pollution Action Plans (HPAPs), with two more underway in Bangladesh and Azerbaijan and numerous requests from other countries. The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health continues to be picked up in global media and work is well underway on a 2021 update to the Commission in collaboration with over 30 global experts in environmental health and policy. Last but not least, we continued engaging with various G20 engagement groups under the Saudi Arabian presidency, publishing a policy brief on the importance of targeting pollution to improve health and address climate change, and bringing our data and arguments to preeminent think tanks, city governments, academia and civil society organizations, with the goal to increase to critical mass national and international support for this important agenda.

We will continue this work in 2021 and beyond, of course with the aim to expand resources available to our low- and middle-income country members, and to expand our HPAP program and its implementation in more countries. To say we look forward to the challenges ahead is an understatement. Millions of children, men and women are being exposed to dangerous levels of pollution every day. Together we can mobilize a global response. We look forward to more successes in 2021.

Thank you for being on this journey with us.

Sincerely,

RICHARD FULLER
CHAIR OF THE BOARD
GAHP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Fuller
Chair of the GAHP Board, Founder and CEO of Pure Earth

Karen Mathiasen
Vice Chair of the GAHP Board, Senior Program Officer, Gates Foundation

Hossam Abou Zeid
Founder, Abou Zeid Foundation

Orkhan Bayramov
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan

Masnellyarti Hilman
Head of Environmental Commission for International Chamber of Commerce, Indonesia

Jacques Mader
Independent global health professional formerly with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation

M. J. Nolan
Treasurer and Board member of Sustainable World—Air Quality Asia

John Pwamang
Acting Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana

Raymond Ruyoka
Reproductive Health Uganda

Douglas Webb
Manager in HIV, Health and Development Practice at UN Development Program

GAHP SECRETARIAT STAFF

Rachael Kupka
Acting Executive Director

Laura Schaefli
Program Manager

Lucile Okio
Manager, Health and Pollution Action Plan Program

SENIOR ADVISORS

Jill Hanna
Karti Sandilya
Lilian Corra

Photo: Larry C. Price/Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting
The Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) is a collaborative body made up of more than 65 members and dozens of observers that advocates for resources and solutions to pollution problems.

GAHP was formed because international and national level actors/agencies recognize that a collaborative, multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach is necessary and critical to deal with the global pollution crisis and resulting health and economic impacts.

GAHP was formed in 2012 by Pure Earth, the World Bank, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, Asian Development Bank, the European Commission, and Ministries of Environment and Health of many low- and middle-income countries to address pollution and health at scale. GAHP incorporated as a foundation in 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

GAHP’s overall goal is to reduce death and illness caused by all forms of toxic pollution, including air, water, soil and chemical wastes especially in low- and middle-income countries. These efforts will contribute to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals related to pollution, particularly on Health (Targets 3.4 and 3.9).

ABOUT GAHP

GAHP FOCUSES ITS EFFORTS IN TWO MAIN AREAS:

1. Advocacy and Awareness Raising
Buildling public, technical and financial support to address pollution globally by promoting scientific research, raising awareness and tracking progress; and

• Robust and Collaborative Global Response to Toxic Pollution
• Research and Metrics
• Civil Society Activation
• Global Initiatives

2. Country-specific Support
Assisting low- and middle-income countries to prioritize and address pollution and problems including:

• Health and Pollution Action Planning
• Solutions Planning and Resource Mobilization
RAISING GLOBAL AWARENESS

As global meetings and events moved online, so did GAHP’s advocacy work. In 2020, GAHP held over 100 virtual meetings to advocate for the adoption of recommendations from the *Lancet* Commission on Pollution and Health report, and to raise awareness about the scope of lead poisoning globally.

Photo: Larry C. Price/Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting
## EVENTS ORGANIZED BY GAHP IN 2020

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation to the Think Tank 20</strong> (engagement group of the G20) on air pollution and climate.</td>
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<td><strong>Parliamentary workshop</strong> in Indonesia on the Health and Pollution Action plan in Kalimantan.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Civil Society 20 (engagement group of the G20) panel</strong> on pollution, climate, and the Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration with Clean Air Asia, NCD Alliance, Pure Earth and others.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation on the global scope of lead poisoning</strong> to multiple ministries and government agencies in various countries including Sweden, USA, and Switzerland.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Two global panels (in English and Spanish) on lead</strong> during Lead Poisoning Prevention Week with GAHP, WHO, UNEP, UNICEF, Pure Earth, Clarios and more.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Webinar on air pollution case studies</strong> in Asia with UN Environment Program.</td>
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Internationally, pollution also began to appear on various agendas.

- In September 2020, the Leaders Pledge for Nature, which includes representatives from 84 countries, included calls for action to reduce pollution and its impacts on planetary sustainability.

- UN Environment Program identified “a pollution-free planet” as one of its three pillars, along with climate change and biodiversity, in its Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2025. The Strategy notes that this is based on previous UNEA resolutions, including the UNEA 2019 resolutions on pollution which were a direct result of GAHP’s advocacy efforts.

GAHP also participated in presentations/interventions at events hosted by the World Economic Forum and OECD; engaged with working groups through the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) process; and joined the Planetary Health Alliance and Every Breath Counts Coalition.
INCREASING VISIBILITY, SETTING PRECEDENTS WITH THE G20

In 2020 GAHP made significant inroads with G20 engagement groups: Think Tank 20 (T20), Urban 20 (U20), Civil Society 20 (C20), and with G20 sherpa offices in Canada, Italy and Japan. As a result of these advocacy efforts, a call to address air pollution and its health impacts was included in the T7 and T20 recommendations to the G20, setting a precedent and increasing the visibility of pollution to G20 and G7 leaders. GAHP also published its first T20 policy brief, Targeting Pollution to Improve Health and Mitigate Climate Change: A Call for action on the G20 Safeguarding the Planet Agenda. GAHP will continue its engagement with the Italian presidency of the G20 in 2021.

SPARKING INVESTMENTS IN FUNDING

GAHP’s work has also led to an increase in investments funding projects related to pollution, such as UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office’s (UK FCDO) launch of a large research program on Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution (SMEP).

Of note, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has begun to increase the number of competitive grants that include reference or a specific focus on pollution as a direct result of GAHP’s work and the publication of the Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health in 2017. In February 2020, USAID issued a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) seeking opportunities to collaborate on pollution prevention and mitigation. This is the first time a BAA has focused specifically on pollution.
2020 marked the development and publication of a new report, funded by the Clean Air Fund, *Air Pollution Interventions: Seeking the Intersection Between Climate and Health*, in collaboration with AirQualityAsia and The Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society at Boston College. Researchers evaluate 22 practical interventions undertaken to reduce air pollution. While some efforts—namely those that replace fossil fuels with renewable energy sources—improve both local health and favorably impact climate change, other, often politically popular programs are of limited value on either front. The report uncovers the overlaps where air pollution intervention will both improve health and reduce climate-driving emissions. In July, GAHP was invited to submit an opinion piece to the World Economic Forum based on the report: *These are the best ways to tackle air pollution and climate change together*. GAHP also supported report promotion in global policy circles and received notable positive response from our main audience in the donor community, including from Canada, UK and Japan.

Additionally, in 2020 GAHP in collaboration with a team of over 25 global experts on environmental health and policy was also hard at work on the conceptualization, research, and drafting of the 2021 update to the 2017 *Lancet* Commission on Pollution and Health. Funded through the generous support of the Swedish Ministry of Environment, the *Lancet* update reviews 2019 data on the global burden of disease from pollution, reviews and comments on global progress on pollution mitigation and prevention efforts, and develops targeted recommendations for pollution problems. The draft will be submitted to the *Lancet* for review in 2021.

GAHP also supported the *Journal of Health and Pollution*, a peer-reviewed open access journal that focuses on publishing important work from low- and middle-income country-based researchers.
HEALTH AND POLLUTION ACTION PLANS

In 2020, GAHP took over management from Pure Earth of the Health and Pollution Action Plans (HPAPs) in low- and middle-income countries. The GAHP HPAP process works to build political awareness, will, and demand for addressing pollution and health problems at the national level. It also aims to increase the supply of resources to address the prioritized health problems.

The HPAP engages a cross-section of relevant government agencies (Environment, Health, Development, Industry, Transport, Mines, and Finance), as well as agencies such as the World Bank, UNEP, UNDP, and donors. The aim is to break down barriers to action, as pollution is not typically prioritized within national budgets or ministries. Further, it brings a variety of donor agencies to the table and helps stakeholders to identify which agencies can take on priority pollution problems, including technical and financial assistance, especially where national sources of revenue are insufficient. The process also coordinates with existing efforts within countries, such as development plans/strategies and relevant chemicals and wastes projects, to ensure their activities are included.
In 2020, Madagascar’s President and Prime Minister declared pollution a priority, based on the country’s Health and Pollution Action Plan (HPAP), which was completed in 2018.

GAHP completed HPAPs in Kalimantan, Indonesia; Senegal and Tajikistan. New HPAPs began in Azerbaijan and Bangladesh with funding from USAID, the EU Delegation of Tajikistan and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

In October, as part of Thailand’s HPAP process, the Thai Environment Institute hosted a stakeholder meeting in Thailand on open field burning with support from Pure Earth, GAHP and UNEP, with funding from the Oak Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

In November, as part of HPAP work, GAHP and Miami University’s Geospatial Analysis Center, in collaboration with Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta, trained 14 environmental professionals from Southeast Asia in open-source earth observation and geospatial information (GIS) technologies for open burning prevention, with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

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<th>INITIAL HPAP PROCESS STEPS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Analyzing National Pollution Issues and Impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> Designing Pollution Programs to Address Priorities</td>
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On the ground, GAHP supported Pure Earth’s outreach to local NGOs in Colombia, Senegal, and Bangladesh, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and USAID. Campaigns were launched in Colombia on the following topics:

- Air Pollution monitoring and awareness near a school in Manizales Caldas.
- Studying the effects of pollution of the Bogota river (from tanneries) on food and recreation areas for children and families in Cundinamarca.
- Environmental pollution and its effects on children and families in the Puente Nayero Humanitarian Space.

Follow up to the above HPAP process in 2021 on will work to ensure that countries that finalized their HPAPs take action and mainstream pollution and health in relevant national policies, and that supply of financial and technical resources to address priority pollution problems starts to flow.
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- GAHP kick-started its first year of existence as a legal entity, focusing on operationalizing the organization, activating its governance structure, and setting up necessary systems.

- The Board met five times, adopting GAHP’s new three-year work plan and transition strategy to independent operations.

- GAHP staffed up the Secretariat welcoming two new Geneva-based team members and a few key senior advisors, and convened the Council for the first time in a virtual setting in October.
FUNDING

In 2020, GAHP received key support from the Governments of Sweden (Ministry of Environment), Switzerland (Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation), and Germany (Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety). Additional funding and support was provided via Pure Earth and the Clarios Foundation. A copy of GAHP’s audited financial statements is available at www.gahp.net.

FY2020 PROGRAM EXPENSES

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Civil Society Activation</td>
<td>78,427</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>38,096</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Advocacy and Awareness Raising</td>
<td>37,623</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Pollution Action Plans</td>
<td>147,567</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Lancet</em> Commission on <em>Pollution and Health</em></td>
<td>108,236</td>
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<td><em>Journal of Health and Pollution</em></td>
<td>35,955</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Strengthening</td>
<td>82,805</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overhead / Administration</td>
<td>60,651</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>589,360</strong></td>
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