1. NEW: Measuring health gains from sustainable development

Measuring health can tell us how well we are advancing sustainable development. For instance, if air pollution is reduced then chronic respiratory and cardiovascular disease will likely decline. Choosing the right indicators of healthy development is important to measuring progress meaningful to human wellbeing. Download the thematic briefings on key Rio+20 themes from a recent WHO analysis and expert consultation:

Disaster risk management
Energy
Jobs
Sustainable cities
Water
Agriculture, food and nutrition security

2. Health is now noted explicitly in the Rio+20 "Zero" draft document "The Future We Want." Negotiations are still underway, however. More health focus can help ensure that health is part of the follow-up decisions to be made in Rio for sustainable development. WHO has three key messages related to health and sustainable development:

1. Achieve universal health access: Healthy people are better able to learn, earn and contribute positively to their societies. Protecting people from catastrophic health expenditures can help people fight disease, fight poverty, and stay healthy. Reducing gender, employment and housing inequities also improves health.
2. Enhance health gains from sustainable development investments and decisions: Health gain from development is not automatic. Strategies need to be designed with health in mind, including health impact assessment (HIA). Healthier environments in homes and workplaces, in rural settings and cities, and including access to healthy foods, water, energy and transport, could help prevent up to one quarter of deaths annually worldwide (WHO-supported expert review - 2004 data).
3. To adopt health indicators to measure progress /achievements in sustainable development - Many key measurements of health can also tell us how well we are advancing sustainable development, and vice versa

4. Key RIO+20 side events on Health and Sustainable Development, which WHO is co-sponsoring. Panelists still being confirmed. Final details to be posted on our "Health in green economy" website Thursday, 14 June.

Tuesday, 19 June 2012

15:10-16.00 - Energy enabling the MDGs: Health and women's empowerment - Session 6 (of 'Energy Day' side events):

Lead organizers: United Nations-Energy/World Health Organization (WHO)
Venue: Riocentro, P3-3

Panelists including: Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO); Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director General of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and co-chair of UN-Energy; Lakshmi Puri Deputy Executive Director, UN Women; Dr. Laura Stachel, We Care Solar; Ms Rada Muthiah, UN

Foundation Global Alliance For Clean Cookstoves.

Wednesday, 20 June 2012

13:00-14.30 - Local action and partnerships for more resilient people and communities

Lead organizer: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Co-organizers: Denmark, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank (WB), World Health Organization (WHO)

Venue: Riocentro, T-8

Panelists to include: Mr. Christian Bach, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark; Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO); Ms. Helen Clark, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Ms. Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP); Dr. Bekele Geleta, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); Ms. Rachel Kyte, Vice President of the World Bank (WB).

http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1000&nr=329&menu=126

14:00-15:30 - Greening the health sector. Initiatives from the US and around the world.

Lead organizer: Health Care Without Harm (HCHW), National Health Service-Sustainability Unit, England, and World Health Organization (WHO)

Venue: USA hosted at USA Center, Parque dos Atletas (Athletes' Park)

Panelists to include: Dr. Maria Neira, Director of Public Health and Environment for the World Health Organization (WHO), Robin Guenther, Healthier Hospitals Initiative, USA.; Dr David Pencheon, National Health Service Sustainable Development Unit, England (via video); Dr Gonsalo Vecina Neto, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Joshua Karliner, HCWH.

http://www.noharm.org/global/news_hcwh/2012/jun/hcwh2012-06-04.php

16:30-18:00 - Partnerships for the integration of food and nutrition security, health and gender equality

Lead Organizer: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and Public Health Institute (PHI), USA

Co-organizers: Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice (MRFCJ), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme (WFP), and World Health Organization (WHO)

Venue: Pavilion 3 - Major Groups Pavilion, Room T-3

Key participants to include: Dr David Nbarro, Special representative of the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition, Ann Tutwiler, FAO, Mary Robinson (MRFCJ), Dr. Maria Neira, Director of Public Health and Environment for the World Health Organization (WHO); Winnie Byanyima, UNDP; Carlos Seré, IFAD;

http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1012&nr=2&menu=23

19.00-20.30 - Health and sustainable development - reinforcing the links

Lead organizers: Government of Brazil - Minister of Health, Oswald Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) National School of Public Health, World Health Organization (WHO)

Venue: Riocentro, T-9 (capacity 100)

Key participants to include: Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO); Ms Heidi Hautala, Minister of Development, Finland; Dr Hasan Mahmud, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Bangladesh; Dr Alexandre Padilha, Minister of Health, Brazil

http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&nr=385&type=1000&menu=126

Thursday, 21 June 2012

13:15-14:45 - Why the three Rio Conventions are critical to achieve development and poverty eradication

Lead organizers: Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Venue: USA Center, Athletes' Park

Key participants to include: Dr. David Nabarro, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition; Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO); Dr. Dennis Garrity, Dryland Ambassador for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; Dr. Rolph Payet, Minister of Environment and Energy for Seychelles; Dr. Olivier de Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur

15:00-15:30 - WHO Press Conference

Venue: Main press briefing room of Media Centre in Pavilion 3