

# HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILDREN

## "Shape the Future of Life"

### Background Paper of WHO-SEARO

#### Introduction

A child's world centres around the home, school and the local community. These should be healthy places where children can thrive, protected from disease. But in reality, these places are often so unhealthy that they underlie the majority of deaths and a huge burden of disease among children in the developing world. More than 5 million children from 0 to 14 years old die every year world wide from diseases linked to the environments in which they live, learn and play - the home, the school, and the community.

Generations of children have suffered from certain 'basic' risks existing in their environments. These are unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, indoor air pollution, insufficient food hygiene, poor housing, inadequate waste disposal, and exposure to chemicals. Degraded environments are the breeding ground for germs, worms and disease-bearing insects. Half a billion children worldwide, many of them in our Region, are debilitated by diseases such as malaria, dengue fever and cholera. Today's 'modern' risks result from the unsafe use of dangerous chemicals, the inadequate disposal of toxic waste and other environmental hazards, noise and industrial pollution. Unsafe chemicals in toys and household products may also harm children. 'Emerging' potential environmental threats to health include global climate change, ozone depletion, contamination by persistent organic pollutants and chemicals and other hazards, and emerging diseases.

Many environmental threats to children's health are aggravated by persistent poverty, conflicts, natural and man-made disasters, and social inequity. The children worst affected are those in the developing world, but there are many children in developed countries, who are also at risk. Children have a unique vulnerability. As they grow and develop, there are "windows of susceptibility": periods when their organs and systems may be particularly sensitive to the effect of certain environmental threats. Children consume more food, air and water than adults do in proportion to their weight. Their immune, reproductive, digestive and central nervous systems are still developing and they spend their time closer to the ground where most dust and chemicals accumulate. Characteristics associated with children, such as their natural curiosity and lack of knowledge, are aggravating factors. Children can also be exposed to harmful environmental hazards before birth, for instance through maternal addiction to tobacco and other substances. Exposure to environmental risks at early stages of development can lead to irreversible damage. Some environmental diseases result in long-term disability; others cause more immediate and short-term effects. Some may result in conditions such as blindness, crippling disease, mental retardation and learning disabilities. Those children who are chronically sick or disabled cannot regularly attend school and so their social and intellectual development suffers.

In turn, this huge burden of ill-health among children constrains the social and economic development of their countries. Children with chronic disease and long-term disability will not grow up to be healthy and productive people. People are their countries' greatest resource, essential for achieving sustainable development. The suffering of children because of environmental hazards is not inevitable. There are solutions; most of the environment-related disease and deaths can be prevented. Never before has there been such a range of tools and strategies to protect children from the dangers lurking in their environments. The Healthy Environments for Children Alliance launched at the September 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, by the WHO Director-General, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, will mobilize these tools and strategies through a worldwide movement, involving a wide range of stakeholders, building on the work that is already being done.

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Environment  
+ Health  
for

## What are the Environmental Risks to Children?

Children are often exposed not just to one risk factor at a time but to several simultaneously. They frequently live in unsafe and crowded settlements, in underserved rural areas or in slums on the edges of cities which lack access to basic services such as water and sanitation, electricity, or health care. They are more likely to be undernourished, causing them to be more vulnerable to environmental threats.

**At Home:** Many children are born at home, and spend a major part of their young lives there. But from conception, their health may be adversely affected by hazards in the home such as lack of sufficient water, indoor air pollution, inadequate hygiene, contaminated food and water, chemical exposure from toxic products and many others.

**At School:** The school, which encompasses the building, its contents and the site on which it is located, shares many of the same health risks as the home - as well as others specific to its environment.

**In the Community:** A child's community includes a number of places - playgrounds, gardens, fields, ponds, rivers or waste dumps, but their relative importance depends on a child's way of life. For instance, millions of children throughout the Region live on the street and are vulnerable to a myriad of hazards including violence and unintentional injury as well as environmental risks such as infection from scavenging on waste dumps. Many children work from a young age so they are exposed to the same environmental risks in the workplace as adults. But they are more susceptible to their effect, and usually less aware of the risks or even more powerless to tackle them. The risks to children in their everyday environments are numerous. But there are six groups of environmental health hazards that must be tackled as priority issues - **unsafe drinking water, lack of hygiene and poor sanitation, air pollution, vector-borne diseases, chemical risks, and accidents and violence**. These risks exacerbate the effects of economic underdevelopment and they cause the bulk of environment-related deaths and disease among children.

## Ensuring Healthy Places

For most of these priority risks, security, stability, emergency preparedness and economic development are key to overcoming them. While experience shows that even in underdeveloped economies, these risks can be significantly reduced, experience also shows that, in higher income societies, the overall burden of environmental diseases in children decreases - at the same time as the relative priorities change. Therefore, countries of the Region will have to set their specific priorities to complement these global ones.

## Effective Strategies for Healthy Environments Already in Place

There is clear evidence that environment-related disease can be controlled even in the world's poorest countries. Worldwide, governments and communities have mobilized effective strategies that are being implemented in various settings. The challenge now is to work with these strategies, reinforcing and building on their efficacy. The Healthy Environments for Children Alliance will work on this principle.

*The Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) and the Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF):* IMCI works on the prevention and treatment of pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, malnutrition, measles, and worm infections, and promotes key family practices that include handwashing and the safe disposal of faeces. IMCI also includes ongoing research about the best ways to reduce indoor air pollution and its possible effect on children's health. IMCI and IYFC promote exclusive breastfeeding, the most powerful and effective means of reducing the incidence and severity of childhood diarrhea, and adequate complementary feeding practices that can protect children from environmental threats.



*FRESH (Focusing Resources for Effective School Health)* advocates for the provision of safe water and sanitation in schools, health and hygiene education, school-based health and nutrition services, and health-related school policies.

*The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control* addresses, inter-alia, second-hand tobacco smoke through a legally binding international treaty. *The Integrated management of pregnancy and childbirth (IMPAC)* reduces maternal and newborn deaths.

## **Why the Healthy Environments for Children Alliance?**

Many countries, UN agencies and NGOs have expressed a strong need to establish a broad-based alliance that draws on the unique and complementary strengths of many different parties. The Healthy Environments for Children Alliance envisions a movement involving various government sectors (at local and national levels), civil society groups and NGOs, the private sector and the UN family, as well as foundations, research and academic groups, and the children and their families themselves. By working together, members of the alliance can more effectively address the needs that exist in many communities and countries to develop and implement effective programmes and policies. Moreover, by working together they will be able to accomplish the tasks and objectives that would otherwise be unattainable or delayed.

The Alliance will draw upon new and compelling evidence of the effectiveness of various interventions to tackle the different dimensions of children's environmental health. That knowledge will be linked to national and community action, and used to mobilize additional resources for implementation. A strong and multi-institutional alliance can advocate globally for increased resources to promote healthy environments for children, as well as for the use of effective tools. The alliance can provide a clearinghouse for information and research, which will be a basis for community and national action. The sharing of information, expertise and efforts will increase the effectiveness of interventions, expand the reach of limited resources, and stimulate governments and others to act in a collective, coherent and synergistic way. In each area of environmental risks described above, many players are already active. Many cost-effective solutions already exist. It is crucial to build on past and ongoing work, and to highlight the potential value that will be added as alliance members are drawn into scaled-up, and more globally as well as locally oriented, actions. This needs top-level commitment for a new and innovative approach to children's environmental health, which draws on the expertise and resources of a wide range of stakeholders. The alliance's success, however, will not be limited to its ability to address each of the risks separately. Through acting together on multiple risks, the various actors will find cross-cutting, integrated solutions for addressing children's health issues and environmental risk factors in a more effective, integrated and synergistic way. Global and Regional direction, advocacy and resource mobilization are essential to make the alliance work effectively. National movements are also vital for creating and ensuring safe and healthy environments for children, and promoting hygienic behaviours. The Alliance will support national and local movements that are visible and vibrant, and catalyse the efforts of different stakeholders, coordinate actions, and strengthen networks. Such national movements can help identify the main environmental risks and prepare strategies to raise awareness and spur action within communities, and to promote education and research on environmental health issues. They will ensure that global ideas are translated into local reality. For further information:

<http://www.who.int/heca/en/>

**Shape the Future of Life**



Report

# Shape the Future of Life



## REPORT APPENDICES

SUMMARY OF REGISTERED EVENTS\*  
AND MEDIA COVERAGE EXAMPLES

# Healthy Environments for Children

\*Events registered as of 1 May 2003 on the World Health Day 2003  
Headquarters Web site.

World Health Organization



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WORLD HEALTH DAY 2003





## APPENDIX I: Summary of Registered<sup>1</sup> Events

### Disclaimer:

- *This document contains event descriptions registered via the World Health Day 2003 WHO headquarters Web site and the whd2003@who.int email as of 1 May 2003. The inclusion of these event descriptions indicates no preference by WHO for these events as against those that are not included.*
- *This document does not represent all of the World Health Day 2003 events carried out around the world. Many were not registered via the headquarters Web site or were registered after the above cited date.*
- *These summaries are of the first event description received for each event and WHO is not responsible for incomplete or incorrect information, or misspellings of the names of persons, organizations/sponsoring bodies, or locations. WHO does not necessarily endorse the activities that are described, or the ways in which they were organized.*
- *Informal translations of event descriptions received in languages other than English were conducted only for the sake of this document. However, WHO takes no responsibility for the accuracy of these translations.*

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<sup>1</sup> Events registered as of 1 May 2003 on the World Health Day 2003 Headquarters Web site.

## Africa

### Regional Office

- WHO/AFRO produced a World Health Day 2003 video, which included an interview with the Regional Director and highlighted the theme of healthy environments for children. The video was produced in French, English, and Portuguese and sent to all countries of the region. A showing of the video was organized for all of the AFRO community.
- A T-shirt promoting World Health Day 2003 was designed, produced, and disseminated among all countries of the region.
- WHO/AFRO, in conjunction with the WHO Republic of the Congo Country Office and national authorities, declared four schools in underserved communities as pilot “Healthy Schools”. Induction activities included carrying out detailed needs analyses and the preparation of implementation plans, funding proposals, and awareness-raising strategies. At the Mayanga Primary School, the following healthy environments for children measures were implemented: the reconstruction of a latrine; the construction of a low-cost rainwater harvesting tank; the installation of hand-washing facilities; and the placement of covered pots for drinking water in each classroom. These activities served demonstration purposes and reinforced hygiene education. Dr Alain Moka, Minister of Health, and Mrs Rosaline Kama Niamayona, Minister of Primary Education, attended a ceremony inaugurating the new facilities.
- The food safety component of World Health Day 2003 was emphasized via the distribution of copies to schoolchildren of the publication “Five Keys to Safer Food and Basic Principles for Preparation of Safe Food for Infants and Young Children”. A play entitled “Food Safety – Your Choice” was written and acted out at many World Health Day 2003 gatherings. The play educated audience members on the consequences of consuming contaminated food.

### Algeria (the People’s Democratic Republic of)

- More than 200 children attended a special World Health Day 2003 session of the *Assemblée Nationale Populaire*, in which the importance of ensuring healthy environments for children was highlighted for the benefit of governmental officials and the President of the Assembly. Experts from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, Population, and Hospital Reform, as well as representatives from WHO Algeria and civil society were present on this occasion.



- In Constantine, Algeria, the Community Health Centre hosted a World Health Day 2003 event on the impact of water quality on children's health. Professionals from the municipal offices in charge of water quality were present.
- In Oran, Algeria, the *Association des para-médicaux secteur sanitaire Oran Est* organized a half-day of activities for youth, including sports tournaments and educational activities on the environment.
- The *Direction de la Jeunesse et des Sports* organized round tables and conferences at the Youth Centre in Blida on the occasion of World Health Day 2003.
- The *Secteur Sanitaire El Abiodh Sidi Cheikh* facilitated discussions on the HEC theme for environmental professionals, as well as sports and cultural activities for children.
- The *Lycee Polytechnique Malek Bennabi*, in Tlemcen, hosted a presentation and slide show on the long-term economic impacts of ill-health among children, thus making the case for the need for healthy environments for children. The presentation was followed by a hygiene and sanitation awareness-raising campaign implemented by youth.
- Expositions and a medical conference were held at the *Centre Culturel Iflissen*, in Tizi Ouzou, in commemoration of World Health Day 2003.

#### **Benin (the Republic of)**

- In Ouidah, the *Cellule Environnement Educ du CEG2 Ouidah* planned extensive activities for World Health Day 2003. These included poetry, song and drawing contests based on the slogan, visits to a water treatment laboratory, expositions on priority environmental risks to children, a showing of films and documentaries on the HEC, and a street parade through Ouidah.

### **Burkina Faso**

- The World Health Day 2003 ceremony was chaired by the Minister of Health and was celebrated in Kombissiri, 50 kilometres from the capital Ougadougou.
- World Health Day 2003 activities included: distributing material on the importance of adequate sanitation; broadcasting a HEC radio quiz; distributing promotional material to primary schools; organizing a visit to a healthy play area for children; broadcasting the Regional Director's message on national television; printing articles and messages in the press; and holding a press conference.

### **Burundi (the Republic of)**

- The WHO Burundi Country Office, in collaboration with UNICEF, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of the Environment, organized a televised round table and a radio spot on healthy environments for children during the week prior to 7 April. The Ministry of Public Health, with the support of WHO and UNICEF, distributed hygiene promotion products and information materials to orphans and children displaced by war in the Taba and Gihosha districts. The main celebration, featuring songs and dances, took place at a primary school in Gikungu. The event was attended by the Minister of Public Health, the Mayor of Bujumbura, and other dignitaries from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Town Planning, and the Ministry of the Environment.

### **Cameroon (the Republic of)**

- In Fomopéa, Cameroon, a public outreach programme to the general community took place on 7 April. It included a session on malaria prevention. This event was coordinated by *Ensemble Protégeons les Vieux*.

### **Cape Verde (the Republic of)**

- Delegates from the ministries of health, environment, agriculture and fisheries, culture and sports, and the Department for Youth, as well as representatives from WHO, other UN agencies, and NGOs attended a World Health Day 2003 event in Ilha de Santiago. Attendees participated in a march, together with students from schools in Cape Verde, that ended with the inauguration of a "Health Fair". The fair featured cultural, informative and recreational activities related to health.



- In a televised national address on 7 April, the Minister of Health highlighted the psychological, emotional, and physical environmental risks to children in Cape Verde.

### **Central African Republic**

- The WHO Country Office for the Central African Republic planned radio and TV spots on healthy environments for children, school competitions, and a celebration with dance and poetry on 7 April.

### **Chad (the Republic of)**

- The WHO Country Office for Chad organized diverse activities, including meetings with school principals, students, parents' associations, teachers' unions, and community health committees, among others. Press outreach also took place.
- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, a Clean Schools Campaign was launched by national education authorities.
- An official WHD 2003 ceremony commenced with a declaration from the Minister of Health on the importance of healthy environments for children, with particular regard to sanitation. Representatives from the education and health sectors, staff from UN agencies, and diplomatic representatives were among the many invitees. Additional WHD 2003 activities included a week (1-9 April) of awareness-raising activities on the HEC theme.
- Radio and television interviews on healthy environments for children were held with experts from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

### **Congo (the Republic of the)**

- The World Health Day 2003 Committee for the Republic of the Congo, established by the Ministry of Health and supported by WHO, carried out the following activities: preparation and dissemination of government communications on the importance of healthy environments for children; organization of an awareness-building campaign in municipalities and schools; launch of a multi-media campaign; implementation of a health programme in public and private schools; posting of banners in strategic points throughout the nation's capitol; construction of adequate sanitation facilities at the *Ecole Mayanga* in Brazzaville; and the hosting of an official ceremony on 7 April. Dr Alain Moka, Minister of Health, and Mrs Rosaline Kama Niamayona, Minister of Primary Education, attended the ceremony.

### **Gabon (the Gabonese Republic)**

- The *Fédération gabonaise des ONG de santé et humanitaire* coordinated a press conference, a sports competition, and an entertainment show for children on World Health Day 2003 in Libreville.

### **Gambia (the Republic of the)**

- The State Department of Health and State Department of Education, in collaboration with WHO Country Office and the media, organized panel discussions on radio and television, awareness-raising publicity campaigns, and a series of environmental clean-up activities in schools and communities. Thousands of school children across the country took part in the activities.

### **Madagascar (the Republic of)**

- A World Health Day 2003 preparatory committee was established with members from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Primary Education, NGOs and associations. In schools, 7 April was declared as a "no classes day". Instead of attending lessons, children spent their time improving the school environment. They cleaned the school playground and sports centres, planted trees, promoted hygiene practices, and produced promotional and educational materials on the healthy environments for children theme. Other WHD 2003 activities included the broadcasting of both the WHO/AFRO Regional Director's WHD message and a declaration by the Ministry of Health, and an official WHD ceremony at a model healthy environments for children primary school.



**Mauritania (the Islamic Republic of)**

- Conferences on healthy environments for children were held at the conference centre of the Hotel Novotel Tfeila in Nouakchott. The conferences included a session on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Attendees at the event included the Secretary General and directors from the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, dignitaries from UN organizations, partners from development agencies, and national and international media representatives.

**Mauritius (the Republic of)**

- The Task Force on Tobacco Control, a body of the Ministry of Health, launched a week (1–6 April) of awareness-raising activities on the impacts of second-hand smoke on children's health.
- The National Prevention Unit of the Ministry of Social Security and 10 nongovernmental organizations co-sponsored a week of World Health Day 2003 events. Activities commenced with speeches by the Minister of Women and the Minister of Social Security at a WHD 2003 launching ceremony, and cumulated with lectures at a primary school in the Batterie Cassée suburb of Port Louis.

**Namibia (the Republic of)**

- The WHO Namibia office launched its CHE initiative on World Health Day 2003 in the north of the country. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr L. Amathila, and other officials spoke at the Cascades Soccer Stadium as part of this event.
- At the Central Hospital and Katutura Hospital in Windhoek, a children's playground was inaugurated and a puppet show was held in commemoration of World Health Day 2003.

**Niger (the Republic of the)**

- The WHO Country Office for Niger facilitated a *Opération environnement sain à l'école*, as well as press outreach, for World Health Day 2003. They also have ongoing activities related to healthy environments for children that were highlighted on 7 April.

## Nigeria (Federal Republic of)

- The World Health Day 2003 National Planning Committee (composed of delegates from the federal ministries of health, education, environment, and women affairs and youth development, as well as representatives of WHO, UNICEF, NGOs, and the media) implemented a joint ministerial press briefing, distribution of materials and a symposium.
- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, the Ministry of Health announced that it would expand implementation of cost-effective strategies for controlling environmental risks to children's health. The Minister of Health, Professor Alphonsus Nwosu, made a pledge to advance work in this area and that a coordinated, multisectoral, and holistic approach—placing children at the centre—was necessary. Additional WHD 2003 activities included: prayers and talks at the Central Mosque in Abuja, a walk and rally, an interdenominational service on healthy environments for children, and a symposium.
- The Association of Community Physicians of Nigeria (Enugu Chapter) facilitated a one day seminar with the following themes: emerging global environmental problems; children and the social environment in Nigeria; environmental health risks to children: the Nigerian case; the economic burden of unhealthy environments.
- Action For Health launched its Child Health and Education (CHE) Initiative at the Central School EZI East, Umueleagwa, Onicha, Ezinihitte Lga, Imo State. The CHE Initiative will entail the ongoing provision of a free monthly public health clinic at the school, with a special focus on personal hygiene, childhood immunizations, deworming, nutrition, growth and development monitoring, etc.
- The Federation of African Medical Students' Association (FAMSA) dedicated a session of the regional conference "War, Health, and Africa: Who Cries?" to healthy environments for children.



### **Rwanda (the Rwandese Republic)**

- World Health Day activities took place during the week of 21-25 April 2003. Activities focused on community mobilization and included TV and radio spots on HEC, the posting of banners in strategic public spaces, and coverage in national newspapers. The main WHD 2003 event took place in the Humure District of the Byumba Province. This event was attended by the Prime Minister, who was accompanied by numerous national political leaders and dignitaries. The Mayor of Kigali closed the ceremony by organizing a clean-up campaign of the areas around the city dump.

### **South Africa (the Republic of)**

- In partnership with organizations such as the Medical Research Council and the WHO country office, the South African National Department of Health organized two key events to mark the World Health Day 2003. The first of the two national events was held on 7 April in Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape. The focus was on rural environmental concerns, such as poor access to water and sanitation, and exposure to indoor air pollution. The South African Minister of Health, Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang delivered the keynote address, and was accompanied by numerous political leaders and dignitaries, including: Deputy Minister of Health; Deputy Minister of Provincial and Local Government; Deputy Minister of Housing; Dr Richard Feachem, Executive Director of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria; and Dr Welile Shasha, WHO Liaison Officer, South Africa.
- On 8 April 2003, the settlement of Bloekombos in Cape Town became the focus of continued World Health Day activities in South Africa. The Minister of Health drew attention in particular to threats to children's safety in the home environment, environmental lead exposure, and the respiratory consequences of exposure to indoor air pollution amongst peri-urban wood- and kerosene-using communities. Dr Tshabalala-Msimang announced a pending national campaign to raise awareness of the risks of lead exposure amongst children. Political leaders and dignitaries, including members of Cape Town's Junior Council, read and signed the Pledge of Commitment to Healthy Environments for Children in South Africa.
- In Cape Town, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church coordinated children's events and activities that promoted safety, health, and environmental stewardship.

**Tanzania (United Republic of)**

- Tanzania Mainland. The Health Education Unit, School Health Programme, of the Ministry of Health (Tanzania Mainland) planned World Health Day 2003 activities in synergy with the Ministry of Education, WHO, UNICEF, Plan International, GTZ, and The Right to Play - Canada (Olympic Aid). The main activity was an event at the Malulu Stadium of the Lindi region, featuring, as Guest of Honour, Hon. Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania. The event was also attended by other dignitaries, including Hon. Anna Abdallah, Minister of Health; Hon. Maokola Majogo, "Minister in the Vice President", also representing Members of Parliament from the southern regions; Mariam Mwafissi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health; and Dr Ali Mzige, Director of Preventive Services; other governmental leaders.
- Zanzibar. The Ministry of Health (Zanzibar), in collaboration with the ministries of education, communication, and community development, WHO and the NGO Cluster, planned a week of World Health Day 2003 activities. These included: a press conference, a journalists' seminar, dissemination of materials, and a main event at Chwaka Village, Central District in South Unguja. Attendees at the event included Hon. Dr Mwinyihaji Mwadini, Minister for Health; Hon. Zainab Shomari, Deputy Minister for Health; Mr Juma Rajabu, Director, Preventive Services; Hon. Samia Suluhu Hussein, Minister for Youth, Employment, Women, and Child Development, and Guest of Honour; Mr Mustafa Ibrahim, Regional Commissioner, South Unguja; and Hon. Haji Mkongo Makungu, District Commissioner, Central District.



## The Americas

### Regional Office

- A kick-off ceremony at PAHO HQ was held on 7 April. Participants included Dr Mirta Roses Periago, Director, Pan American Health Organization; Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary of Health and Human Services of the U.S.; Daniel Swartz, Keynote Speaker, Executive Director, Children's Environmental Health Network; Mrs Ximena Bohorquez, First Lady of Ecuador; Mr Paul Spencer, Organization of American States; and Joanne Rodman, Director of the Office of Children's Health Protection of the Environmental Protection Agency.
- On the occasion of World Health Day 2003, Mauricio de Sousa Productions and the Pan American Health Organization launched the special comic book "Monica-Healthy Environments for Children," designed to call attention to environmental risks and dangers in homes, schools, and playgrounds and highlight solutions to create healthy living environments for children. Brazilian cartoonist Mauricio de Sousa, creator of Mónica, received an award from PAHO appointing him "Champion of Health in the Americas" for his support and collaboration in health information programs.
- The United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Environmental Protection Agency held a children's health fair in the Great Hall of the Humphrey Building on 8 April. The focus was environmental health for children and diet, nutrition, diabetes, obesity, etc. There were booths, games and activities for children. Participants included, among others: Director of PAHO, Dr Mirta Roses; U.S. Surgeon General, Dr Richard Carmona; dignitaries from USAID, the State Department and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- The PAHO programmes for Communicable Diseases and Sustainable Development and Environmental Health, in collaboration with the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the American Mosquito Control Association, organized a children's workshop at PAHO HQ on 8 April. The objective was to teach young people about mosquitoes, their life cycles and habitats, the diseases they carry, and safe ways to keep them out of the house.
- PAHO's Human Resources programme launched the Virtual Public Health Campus. The event took place at PAHO HQ on 9 April. The programme was Web cast and the PAHO country offices' staff and invited guests were able to participate through video conferencing via satellite. Dr Mirta Roses, two ministers of health, and two deans of schools of public health participated.

- Health Promotion and Health Education in the School Setting hosted a debate on integrated school health programmes and the importance of the Health-Promoting School Regional Initiative. A panel of students, teachers, parents, and school administrators discussed their concepts of integrated school health programmes during this event at PAHO HQ on 11 April.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Health was open to all PAHO staff, their families, friends, neighbours and anyone interested in celebrating World Health Day 2003 on 7 April. The walk began at Centennial Plaza.
- The Organization of American States (OAS) held a special conference on “Children, Health, and the Environment”. Speakers at the conference included: Dr Mirta Roses, Director of PAHO; Lic. Alejandro Bonasso, Director of the Inter-American Children’s Institute; and Dr Richard Meganck, Director of the Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment (USDE) at the OAS.

#### **Argentina (the Argentine Republic)**

- The Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation, Ing. Carlos Merenson, participated in a main event commemorating World Health Day 2003. Minister of Health, Dr Ginés González García, was also present.
- Santa Fe 3138 (FM BRISAS), a radio station of Mar del Plata, hosted a radio show with expert guests on the theme of healthy environments for children.
- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, the first seminar of Safe Water for Everyone (*Agua Sana para Todos*) was held in Los Polvorines, Provincia de Buenos Aires. This was the first of eight seminars, carried out with the support of the community, on safe drinking water.
- *Radio Nacional Argentina*, found on the frequencies AM870, FM 98.7, FM 96.7 and FM 87.9, aired five radio spots on the theme of healthy environments for children on 7 April.
- The *Voluntariado de Neonatología del Hospital Perrando Castelán* facilitated arts and crafts activities on the theme of healthy environments for children in two kindergarten classes in Chaco.



- *Radio Nihuil* (AM 680, Mendoza) hosted a special programme on healthy environments for children on World Health Day 2003. Guests included children, who voiced their concern about the state of the environment, as well as professionals from the *Asociación Argentina de Médicos Por el Medio Ambiente*.
- The Department of Health of Buenos Aires facilitated presentations in the paediatric wards of hospitals throughout the city. Presentations, conducted by mental health professionals, stressed the importance of collaboration between medical professionals of different fields in order to create safe and healthy environments for children.
- The Puerto Madryn branch of PECAS, an Argentine association of paediatricians, organized a theatrical event that served to both entertain children and teach them about healthy environments for children.
- *EXPO-SALUD*, held in Jujuy, was organized with the objective of commemorating World Health Day 2003 and highlighting what is being done by different regional government institutions to protect public health.
- The government of the city of Buenos Aires included an announcement of World Health Day 2003 in their monthly publication *Maletín Federal*, which is circulated to all government workers and recipients of benevolent funds.
- The *Fundación Amado Nervo Rabuini* hosted their sixth annual day of health awareness activities in Santa Fe on World Health Day 2003.
- Mendoza's municipal Department of Education and Communication for Health distributed a CD with songs promoting health (including healthy environments for children) to all schools in the area. This was accompanied by a mini-recital by the author of the songs and a TV spot.
- The newspaper *Diario La Gaceta*, with a circulation of 70 000 in the province of Tucumán, contained a special supplement on World Health Day 2003 and healthy environments for children.
- On World Health Day, *Ecoclubes Paraná* invited school authorities, representatives of public institutions, and the general public to an event called "Creating Healthy Environments for Children". The event consisted of arts and crafts activities and a competition for children.

- The *Colegio Nuestra Sra. de la Misericordia* held an educational session on the World Health Day 2003 theme, disseminated materials throughout the school, and committed to incorporating healthy environments for children issues into the school curriculum for the rest of 2003.
- Under the umbrella of the “Healthy Cities” Programme, 50 diverse organizations worked together to commemorate World Health Day 2003 in Concepción del Uruguay, Entre Ríos. Specific activities included: student workshops on the healthy environments for children theme; ongoing “community works” projects to improve playground and public park safety; a healthy environments for children exposition with 14 stands; a conference on culture and environment; and hygiene-promoting projects in schools. These activities received significant media coverage, including mention on local television and FM/AM radio, and in two local newspapers.

#### **Aruba (Kingdom of the Netherlands)**

- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, the Department of Public Health, Aruba, held a Child Health Fair in Oranjestad.

#### **Belize**

- The WHO/PAHO Country Office in Belize focused their World Health Day 2003 activities on child safety and the social and physical environments of children. April 7th also served as the launch date of the National Child Safety Campaign.

#### **Brazil (the Federative Republic of)**

- The Pequeno Príncipe Hospital in Curitiba, Paraná, celebrated World Health Day 2003 with a walk and road race dedicated to the theme of “prevention of domestic accidents”. The event was accompanied by the distribution of 30 000 folders on the theme.
- *SBOT- Sociedade Brasileira de Ortopedia e Traumatologia* hosted an event for orphans and children living in poverty on World Health Day 2003. The event included a free breakfast, sports, music and dancing, and a donation drive for used toys.



- The Municipal City Hall of Jaú (Department of Health) held its XII Health Fair, which, in commemoration of World Health Day 2003, focussed on children's health.
- The National Organization of Health hosted an event for youth that included discussions on ways to create healthy environments, tree planting and a musical performance.
- The Health in School Programme, coordinated through the State Schools of Rio de Janeiro by the state departments of civil defence, education and health, implemented WHD 2003 activities in seven polo schools. With the coordination of multidisciplinary professionals (paediatricians, physicians, dentists, nurses, speech therapists, psychologists, nutritionists and social assistants) from the Military Fire Department of Rio de Janeiro, the events included lectures, tree planting, and video showings.
- The *Grupo Hospitalar Conceição* celebrated World Health Day 2003 with handcraft workshops, a street theatre, lectures, and a walk for health. There was a musical show for the internal and external community. Educational movies and leaflets were provided.
- The Library/ Centre for Information on Public Health in São Paulo prepared an exhibition for visitors in commemoration of World Health Day 2003, complete with material handouts and an electronic version available on-line.

## Canada

- During World Health Day 2003, CHILD Safety LINK launched a contest to highlight the dangers children face in their environment. CHILD Safety LINK, a community-based programme, educated Maritime parents in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island about helmet safety, car/booster seats, safe playgrounds, safe home environments and poison prevention.
- *Commission de la santé et des services sociaux des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador* hosted a forum in Ste-Foy, Qc, to highlight the importance of healthy environments for children among indigenous populations.
- In conjunction with World Health Day 2003, the Faculty of Kinesiology at the University of Calgary had an open house, featuring tours, interactive demonstrations and presentations related to the theme "Healthy Environments for Children."

- A WHD 2003 presentation was held at the University of Western Ontario, with the aim of increasing knowledge and awareness of the linkages between the environment and children's health. Subsequently, a "Nature Challenge" (an activity highlighting ten easy and efficient changes that individuals can make to conserve nature) took place.
- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, a workshop entitled "Children's Health and the Environment: Taking Action Through Public Policy" was sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Child Health, Health Canada, Environment Canada and the Canadian Society for International Health.
- The Wallaceburg District Secondary School, Ontario, held a "Health Awareness- Raising Week" (8–11 April) on the HEC theme. Health trivia contests, group discussions and poster preparation were some of the activities.

#### Chile (the Republic of)

- With the attendance of President Ricardo Lagos, World Health Day 2003 was commemorated at the Cerro Santa Lucía in Santiago, Chile. Dr Pedro García, Minister of Health; Dr Christian Darrás, PAHO/AMRO; Pedro Aguirre Cerda, Mayor of Santiago; Juan Saavedra, *Red Municipal de Atención Primaria Ambiental*; representatives from CONAMA, SENAME, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the Public Health School of the University of Chile; and three hundred children from schools and environmental clubs were present. On this occasion, the authorities of the participating institutions and the children, in a symbolic act, signed a commitment to the Healthy Environments for Children Alliance.
- The WHO Country Office for Chile—in collaboration with other UN agency country offices, national government ministries and organizations, and NGOs—launched a campaign on healthy environments for children and facilitated a contest for youth initiatives dedicated to constructing healthy environments.
- An event dedicated to teaching elementary school children the importance of environmental stewardship took place on the patio of the School of Public Health at the University of Chile, in commemoration of World Health Day 2003.
- The *Observatorio de Conflictos Ambientales* hosted an educational event for children in Santiago on the potential health risks of exposure to misused herbicides and pesticides.



- Chalk drawings on sidewalks, expositions and panels on healthy environments for children marked World Health Day 2003 at the Plaza Vida Chile (Aconcagua). This event, entitled "Children of Aconcagua for Healthy Environments ", was coordinated by the municipal health department.
- The Region VIII office of the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Department of Education and three schools, hosted an educational walk in the *Area Silvestre Protegida, Parque Tumbes*. Children were taught about environmental health issues as they passed through the park.
- In Santiago, *CESFAM Servicio de Salud Metropolitano Oriente* facilitated an educational event where patients and visitors of CESFAM were taught about the importance of children's health, not only as relative to the well-being of the child, but as a part of a "healthy family".
- *Comité Vida Chile - Puerto Montt* launched a "healthy lifestyles" programme throughout the district's schools on the occasion of World Health Day 2003. An inaugural event was held in which several schools were awarded certificates for healthy environments, while others received acknowledgement of being part of a "Smoke Free School" coalition.
- Seven municipalities in Los Alamos signed a Healthy Environments for Children protocol in commemoration of World Health Day 2003. The protocol commits signees to improving sanitation in schools. This was accompanied by a radio transmission on the WHD 2003 theme and presentations in schools.
- A meeting on the theme "The Importance of the Environment in Safeguarding Community Health" was held in Curanilahue. Attendees included local political/social figureheads, neighbourhood groups, SSARAUCO and DIDECO.
- In Cañete, a World Health Day 2003 Forum was held for children on the importance of water and the environment for health. DAEM and *Grupo Ecológico Altué* participated.
- Five hospitals and five doctors' offices in the Province of Arauco celebrated World Health Day 2003 through diverse activities during the week of 7–11 April.

- World Health Day 2003 events were carried out in Lebu with the cooperation of the Health Promoting Schools (*Escuelas Promotoras de Salud*).
- On 7 April, eight radio stations in the province of Arauco transmitted the healthy environments for children message in commemoration of World Health Day 2003.
- Six-hundred children from 13 schools celebrated World Health Day 2003 at an event coordinated by the provincial health and education departments, the faculties of education and medicine at the *Universidad de Concepción*, and the NGO CODEFF.
- In Valdivia, a World Health Day 2003 event was held at the *Teatro Lord Cochrane*. The event was attended by authorities from both regional government departments (education, police, coast guard) and municipal programmes, and children. Sra. Marta Meza, Governor of the Province, and Dr Joel Arriagada G., Director of the Health Service of Valdivia, spoke at this event.

#### Colombia (the Republic of)

- The creation of a "*Manifiesto de los niños por un ambiente saludable*" (Manifesto by Children in Favour of a Healthy Environment) was organized by the following bodies: the Presidency of the Republic; the Ministry of Environment, Housing, and Development; the Ministry of Social Protection and Education; UNICEF; PAHO/WHO Colombia; and the *Asociación Colombiana de Corporaciones Autónoma Regionales*. The purpose of the manifesto was to provide children with the opportunity to express their wishes for a healthy environment and remind adults and authorities of their responsibilities in ensuring that the environment is free from hazards to children's health.
- PAHO/WHO Colombia organized drawing and essay competitions for more than 3 200 children on HEC themes at the Book Festival in Bogotá City.
- The Ese Hospital in Antioquia participated in a week (1–7 April) of radio announcements/services on healthy environments for children. In addition, they hosted various recreational activities for children on 7 April.



- Defence for Children International (DCI) - Colombia promoted a conference cycle among community mothers and displaced families within the municipality of Barrancabermeja during World Health Day 2003. The ambition was to promote healthy environments for children within the home.
- The Hospital San Juan de Dios de Velez sponsored a walk-a-thon for children and families on World Health Day 2003. More than 800 people participated in the four kilometre walk. Communities donated refreshments and assisted in marking World Health Day 2003 with performances by clowns and musical groups.

### Costa Rica (the Republic of)

- The Ministry of Health, with the participation of Dr María del Rocio Sáenz, Minister of Health, and Dr Philippe Lamy, Representative of PAHO/WHO, celebrated World Health Day 2003 with the children and parents of CENCINAI in *Barrio Cristo Rey*. The children gave presentations on the rights of all youth to enjoy a healthy life. The Minister of Health highlighted the responsibility of institutions and parents to secure safe and healthy environments. She specifically emphasized the importance of interagency collaboration, to protect children from transportation accidents, and hygiene measures such as hand washing, to prevent diarrhoea.
- On the occasion of World Health Day 2003, the *Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social* (CCSS) organized a press conference, which was attended by Executive Director, Dr Eliseo Vargas. The conference specifically highlighted the impact of acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea on children's health, and underscored the importance of preventative hygiene measures. An awareness-raising campaign, consisting of a drama on hand washing interpreted by students from *Colegio Castella*, was launched.
- At a World Health Day 2003 celebration organized by the *Banco Nacional de Costa Rica*, puppet shows on healthy environments for children and discussions by PAHO/WHO Representative, Ing. Ricardo Torres, on environmental risks to children's health took place.
- The Division of Curriculum Development of the Office of Environmental Education, Ministry of Education, launched an initiative to incorporate elements of World Health Day 2003 informational materials into a curriculum guide for schools throughout the country. The guide, which will be used in addition to the original WHD 2003 materials, will include hands-on learning experiences for students, such field trips, research, and projects, and serve to educate students using a multidisciplinary approach.

- PAHO/WHO Costa Rica reproduced WHD 2003 informational materials and disseminated them to the libraries and educational centres of the Ministry of Education and health institutes, for the benefit of both internal and external users.

### **Dominican Republic (the)**

- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, *Ecoclubes* co-organized mural-painting contests, theatre performances and conferences on the HEC theme, walk-a-thons, and discussions in six municipalities.
- The Secretary of Health, the First Lady, and approximately 5 000 people attended a World Health Day 2003 event on 7 April. Invitees included representatives from UNICEF, PNUD, PMA, and the ministries of environment, education and youth, among others. The event featured dances, plays, and parades by children, as well as educational conferences.

### **Ecuador (the Republic of)**

- During the week of 31 March – 7 April, activities promoting healthy environments for children in schools and recreational areas were carried out with the participation of the health and education sectors. Specific emphasis was given to the importance of water security, the absence of environmental tobacco smoke, and—in coastal zones—protection from vector-borne diseases.
- Children and their parents/caretakers participated in World Health Day 2003 walk-a-thons in Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca, Loja, Ambato, Cotacachi, Esmeraldas, Arenillas, Pedro Moncayo, Guamote, Tena, and others. The walk-a-thons were organized with the support of municipal governments and the health and education sectors.
- On 7 April, a letter of intention was signed by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, PAHO/WHO Ecuador, and the Municipality of Quito, in support of the creation of the *Observatorio del Delito, Violencia Familiar, y de Género*. The proposed centre will promote interventions and policies to protect the security and well-being of citizens, with a particular focus on children.



- PAHO/WHO Ecuador, in commemoration of World Health Day 2003, highlighted the activities of various municipal governments that favour healthy environments for children and their families. The municipal governments of the following cities were honoured for these HEC achievements: Guayaquil, for the construction and maintenance of Malecón 200; Quito, for the construction of healthy marketplaces; and Cuenca, for the construction of a walking centre, which is a large space that encourages active leisure-time activities for children and their families.

### **El Salvador (Republic of)**

- The ministries of health, environment, education, and agriculture hosted a forum on healthy environments for children at the *Parque Nacional de la Familia* in San Salvador.

### **Haiti (the Republic of)**

- PAHO/WHO Haiti, the Public Health Association and the Association of Journalists in Public Health organized a one-day workshop on the theme: "Environmental Impact on Children's Health".
- On 12 April 2003, the Health Municipalities, the Churches Association for Health, the Public Health Association and PAHO/WHO organized a one-day workshop entitled "The Role of Youth in Protecting Environmental Health".

### **Jamaica**

- To mark World Health Day 2003, PAHO/WHO Jamaica joined forces with the Women Resource and Outreach Centre and the Coalition for Community Participation in Governance to promote a collaborative approach for the implementation of the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for All) project. This collaborative approach resulted in the participation of three government ministries (health, water and housing, and education), three government statutory bodies (National Housing Trust, National Solid Waste Management Authority and the Water Resources Authority) and five private sector organizations (Guardian Life Ltd., The Jamaica Observer, Rentalot Equipment, Colgate Ltd. and Lasco Ltd.). The collaborative approach towards WASH emphasizes the need for healthy settings.

- A World Health Day 2003 celebration was held in a Kingston inner-city community, and was attended by over 200 children, teachers and principals from 14 schools in the area. At the event, the Minister of Education outlined the government's commitment to creating healthy settings and guaranteeing healthy environments for children. Reeshemah Ball, PAHO Centennial Poster Winner, addressed the audience and urged today's adults to do more to protect children from environmental risks.

### **Mexico (the United Mexican States)**

- World Health Day 2003 was celebrated in diverse states of Mexico and at the official residence of President Vicente Fox, in the presence of Secretary of Health of Mexico, Dr Julio Frenk. In a detailed address to attendees, Dr Frenk highlighted the importance of healthy environments for children and issued a rallying call for action in support of HEC for Mexico's children.
- On World Health Day 2003, the Faculty of Medicine at the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí inaugurated its *Unidad Pediátrica Ambiental* (CANICAS ... Academic Consortium on Children, Environment, and Health) and *Centro de Pediatría Ambiental*. To celebrate the opening of the Centre, 600 children partook in educational games and activities, and watched dramas and puppet shows on the healthy environments for children theme.
- The general hospital of Culiacan in Sinaloa hosted an event with an emphasis on preventing principal causes of ill-health, with a particular focus on children and youth. This event received printed press, radio and television coverage.
- In Veracruz, World Health Day 2003 was celebrated by the health department (*Servicios de Salud de Veracruz Jurisdicción Sanitaria No. VIII*) with a 2.4 kilometre walk in which children, parents and health officials participated.
- Organized by the *Facultad de Medicina de Tampico* at the *Centro Universitario Tampico-Madero*, elementary school children in Tampico, Tamaulipas, were taught about the importance of healthy environments during the four weeks leading up to World Health Day 2003. On 7 April, the children participated in a painting contest on the theme and a 5.5 kilometre race for health.
- Children's games, theatrical presentations, and puppet shows commemorated World Health Day 2003 at the auditorium of the Faculty of Medicine at the *Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí*.



- In Torreón, Coahuila, a healthy environments for children fair, with 25 stands on key environmental risk factors, was established by local government. Children from nearby schools were invited to attend, and upon passing through the stands, they received a certificate of commitment to “shaping the future of life and helping to create healthy environments for children”.
- As their contribution to World Health Day 2003, *Servicios de Apoyo Psicoeducativo* in Michoacan organized a radio show on healthy environments for children.

#### **Netherlands Antilles**

- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, Sector Health Care Affairs coordinated a poster competition on healthy environments for children. On 6 April, competition finalists were taken on an educational bus tour, where a guide highlighted examples of healthy and unhealthy environments. On 7 April, three competition winners were announced at a press conference.
- The Public Health Department facilitated a lecture on healthy environments for children, specifically focussing on dengue prevention. The lecture was given in elementary and secondary schools, and students went on field trips and carried out inspections afterwards.
- A radio programme on healthy environments for children and dengue prevention was organized by the Public Health Department in commemoration of World Health Day 2003.

#### **Nicaragua (the Republic of)**

- The PAHO office in Nicaragua, in collaboration with UNICEF, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports, the Municipality of Managua, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and others, celebrated healthy environments for children through various activities planned for the week of 28 March – 7 April. These included: a forum on the HEC theme, consisting of speeches and a call for a national alliance to guarantee healthy environments for children; a walk-a-thon, in which participated 2 000 people, including dignitaries from the ministries and municipal government; a press conference; a school fair for children, which included an exhibition by children on how they envision their ideal environment and future. Dr José Antonio Alvarado, Minister of Health, was involved in the commemoration of World Health Day 2003.

### **Panama (the Republic of)**

- At the city hall in David, Panama, an educational event was held for children between the ages of 5 and 14 and their parents. Children's health and safety was discussed.

### **Peru (the Republic of)**

- A lecture, an oral quiz contest (where participants with the most correct answers were awarded a prize), and an exhibition of information materials marked World Health Day 2003 at the *Centro de Salud de San Isidro*, Ministry of Health, in Lima.
- The NGO COPRODELI visited a poverty-stricken settlement in the province of Lima and offered free medical visits and advice on preventing infectious diseases. More than 100 families received services.
- The municipal health department of Tumbes hosted a lecture and debate on healthy environments for children in the Tumbes region.
- The municipal government of Lima sponsored a bicycle-athon with more than 5 000 people. The route went from the *Plaza de Armas* through the principle streets of Lima, covering a total of more than 30 kilometres.
- A video-athon for children and adolescents was held at Hospital II in Huancavelica, involving video projects and discussions on healthy environments for children. More than 335 children from 13 primary and secondary schools participated.
- The *Dirección de Salud IV* in Lima coordinated three simultaneous events in commemoration of World Health Day 2003. The focus of these events was prevention and the promotion of effective interventions.
- At a press conference on 2 April, the Minister of Health and the Representative of PAHO/WHO Peru announced the theme of World Health Day 2003 and underlined the importance of intersectoral collaboration in ensuring healthy environments for children.
- A walk-a-thon for children and their families was held on 6 April under the umbrella of World Health Day 2003 activities. Key health authorities and representatives from the Ministry of Women and Sustainable Development participated.



- DIGESA/MINSA organized a forum on the theme “Shape the Future of Life: Healthy Environments for Children”. More than 300 people attended, and contributors included representatives from PAHO/WHO and the ministries of health, education, energy and mines, transportation, and women and sustainable development. Subsequent forums were held on the costs of environmental contamination (10 April) and the environmental rights of children (15 April).
- In the Peruvian highlands, the meeting “Primary Environmental Care for the Creation of Healthy Environments for Children” took place on 28 April. More than 250 directors of Indigenous organizations and mayors from Quechua and Aymara communities attended. Indigenous Congresswoman Ms Paulina Arpasi was also present.

#### **Suriname (the Republic of)**

- World Health Day 2003 was celebrated at the Public School Uitkijk. Attendees included: the First Lady, Mrs Liesbeth Venetiaan-Vaneburg; the Hon. Rakieb Khudabux, Minister of Health; the Hon. Walter Sandriman, Minister of Education; and Dr. Carol Vlassoff, PAHO representative in Suriname. The celebration focused on the launching of two school projects. The first aims to improve water supply and sanitation. It is being executed by the school community (teachers, parents, pupils) with donations from the private sector. This project expands upon PAHO Suriname’s ongoing work in the area of water supply, sanitation and hygiene education at schools. The second project is the national school competition “Healthy Environments for Children: Improve your school.” This competition rewards schools that have achieved the most improvements over the duration of the contest period. A total of 30 criteria have been established and include environmental health and safety issues. Prizes consist of a monetary contribution to further improve the school. Financial support is donated by larger national companies including Suralco, Bauxite, Staatsolie, and Coca Cola.
- A special World Health Day 2003 announcement by First Lady Mrs Liesbeth Venetiaan-Vanenburg was broadcast on the national television station, Apintie.

#### **United States of America**

- In El Paso, Texas, 3 500 children from 35 Head Start Centres participated in an art contest and an environment and health fair, sponsored by PAHO-Field Office, the El Paso City and County Health Department, Region 19 Head Start Programme, and other local agencies.

- The Environmental Health Project in Arlington, Virginia, promoted World Health Day 2003 and healthy environments for children on their Web site.
- The Development Gateway, a sustainable development news portal on the Internet, featured innovations related to health in support of World Health Day 2003.
- The Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club (THDARC), in collaboration with the Oklahoma Section of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), operated an Amateur Radio station from the Tulsa Health Department's Emergency Operations Command Centre to help bring attention to World Health Day 2003.

#### Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

- In the *Centro Hospitalario- "Dr Luis Razetti, Barcelona"* in Anzoátegui, educational sessions for people living in poverty were offered on interventions for creating healthy environments for children. Practical measures involving hygiene and low-cost water purification methods were discussed, among other issues.
- The *Brigada de Rescate y Defensa Ambiental de la Defensoría Comunitaria de la Salud*, in collaboration with the University of Carabobo, coordinated activities for children on World Health Day 2003. These included storytelling that incorporated relevant indigenous folklore; a painting contest on environment themes; and a nature walk.
- The municipal government of Valencia, Venezuela, coordinated poster competitions and material dissemination in the city's schools on the World Health Day 2003 theme.
- CORPOSALUD designed a short theatrical presentation on how to create healthy environments for children and key environmental risk factors. The play was performed for children in Maracay on 7 April.



- The neighbourhood association *Asopraes*, in Prados del Este, Caracas, called a World Health Day 2003 community meeting on healthy environments for children. Participants discussed strategies being implemented in other communities to resolve problems of unsafe environments, and which of these measures could be effectively adapted to Prados del Este.
- The *Hospital Dr. J. E. Angulo Rivas*, in Anaco, celebrated World Health Day 2003 with a theatre, dance and music performance by children. The theme of the play was healthy environments for children.

### **(The) Eastern Mediterranean**

#### **Regional Office**

- A regional team was established by the EMRO Regional Director to propose and conduct World Health Day 2003 activities.
- EMRO invited students in all Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region to participate in a drawing and painting competition on healthy environments for children.
- A package containing a World Health Day 2003 kit in English and Arabic was disseminated to all countries and some nongovernmental organizations in the region.
- On the occasion of World Health Day 2003, a message by the EMRO Regional Director was recorded in Arabic, English, Farsi and French. This message, as well as the WHD 2003 message of Director-General Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, was sent to all Member States in the region.
- Due to the prevailing international situation on 7 April, World Health Day 2003, WHO/EMRO postponed regional office events marking the occasion. Member States were encouraged to carry out or postpone activities as they deemed appropriate. A national conference on healthy environments for children, to be inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Queen Rania, was postponed until further notice.

- A WHD 2003 Web site was established to provide informational and graphic resources for event coordinators, as well as highlight the World Health Day 2003 activities in region.

#### **Afghanistan (the Transitional Islamic State of)**

- His Excellency President Hamid Karzai delivered a speech at the Ministry of Health in Kabul, on the occasion of World Health Day 2003.
- World Health Day 2003 materials were translated into the local language and disseminated to pertinent sectors.

#### **Djibouti (the Republic of)**

- The Minister of Health, the Minister of Education, and the Minister of Environment attended a World Health Day 2003 ceremony on 7 April. In addition, the following activities took place in support of WHD 2003: a campaign promoting healthy environments in schools, tree planting, and the production of T-shirts with the WHD 2003 logo.

#### **Egypt (the Arab Republic of)**

- The Mansoura Students' Scientific Association visited an orphanage in commemoration of World Health Day 2003. They conducted a puppet show, which served to bring healthy environments "to life" for children.

#### **Iran (the Islamic Republic of)**

- World Health Day 2003 activities in Iran were coordinated by the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Education, in collaboration with the Health and Nutrition Department of the Ministry of Education. Activities included the following: participation in the international WHD 2003 art contest; implementation of Health Week (7–13 April); development of a strategy to screen and award health certificates to first graders in the nation's elementary schools.
- The Sport Medicine Federation, Islamic Republic of Iran, translated and distributed World Health Day 2003 information materials to all of their branches.



- The Guilan Medical University in Rasht hosted a meeting on environmental risk factors for children. The University had been doing field research in this area during the months prior to World Health Day 2003. The meeting included outreach to parents and children on interventions.
- Payam Dindoust, importers of pharmaceutical products in Iran, printed WHD 2003 posters and translated informative materials into Persian. These were then distributed to clinics, pharmacies, hospitals and Ministry of Health offices.
- The School of Public Health and Institute of Public Health Research, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, held a World Health Day 2003 symposium with children from local elementary schools, medical students, and community representatives.

#### **Jordan (Hashemite Kingdom of)**

- A national committee was established to prepare and carry out WHD 2003 activities, which included: a colloquium on the WHD theme; a song for children; projects with local communities to develop healthy environment for children activities; a large radio, TV, and newspaper media campaign; participation in the art competition organized by WHO; a TV programme in which the Minister of Health delivered the "Message of Jordan on World Health Day 2003", followed by a documentary film; production of two TV information programmes for mothers and children on healthy environments.

#### **Lebanon (Lebanese Republic)**

- Representatives from WHO, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, UNDP and the Higher Council for Children carried out the following World Health Day 2003 activities in Lebanon: media mobilization, a conference, expositions, a concert, drawing competitions, and discussions between representatives of municipalities, ministries, concerned institutions and children regarding the WHD 2003 theme.

### **Morocco (the Kingdom of)**

- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, the ministries of health, environment and interior jointly signed a convention entitled “Promotion of school health”. The convention aims to strengthen cooperation among the three ministries in the area of school health. At a national WHD 2003 celebration in Rabat, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Environment and the Minister of the Interior gave speeches on the different aspects of healthy environments for children. Awards were given to persons and institutions that have contributed to the promotion of children's health in Morocco.

### **Pakistan (the Islamic Republic of)**

- The National Research Institute of Fertility Care, a WHO Collaborating Center in Sindh, hosted a walk to promote World Health Day 2003.
- The National Research Institute of Fertility Care held a lecture for teachers in rural schools on how they could ensure healthy environments for children in the rural educational setting.
- The Society for Advancement of Women (SAW), with a history of partnering in the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme and campaigning for healthy homes, held an activity in the Government High School of Kullian that highlighted how healthy environments are essential for children's health.
- The Kashmir Institute of National Development (KIND) hosted an event at the Government High School in Danna to create awareness about safe water, waste disposal and adoption of hygiene habits by households.
- The nursing students of the Children's Ward of the Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi conducted teaching sessions on nutrition, diet, weaning, hepatitis A & C, child rights and diarrhoea.
- Lectures on healthy environments for children were held for students and parents at the Pakistan Airforce Montessori School, PAF Base, Peshawar.



- To mark World Health Day 2003, the Faculty of Community Health Sciences, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences, organized a workshop on environmental hazards for children. The workshop aimed to sensitize policy-makers on the need for legislation and/or affirmative action to provide safer environments for children in their homes, schools or communities.
- The 12th International Children's Health Conference was held in Islamabad on 7 April, in commemoration of World Health Day 2003. The conference featured an assembly in which speeches were delivered by students from diverse countries on the "Healthy Environments for Children" theme. More than 2 500 students and 300 staff members were present.

#### **Qatar (the State of)**

- A "medical camp", featuring talks on healthy environments for children, a health screening, and an information centre, was hosted by the Indian Islamic Association of Qatar at the Qatar Government Secondary School.

#### **Saudi Arabia (the Kingdom of)**

- At the Dar Al Hekma College for Girls Education Campus (Jeddah), a health fair, lectures, and material distribution took place during the week following World Health Day 2003 to serve as a spring board for continuous activities promoting healthy environments for children. *Dar alhekma* magazine, local newspapers and local health magazines covered these events.
- At the King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital in Riyadh, lectures were held on pollution in the city as relevant to the theme of WHD 2003, "Healthy Environments for Children".
- In the Eastern Jubail Industrial City, primary health care centres undertook a health education programme on the WHD 2003 theme. It included dissemination of booklets, posters, and pamphlets; the showing of films and electronic powerpoints; and lectures.
- The Maternity and Children Hospital in Jeddah distributed posters and booklets on healthy environments for children, and hosted lectures for the public.

- Hosted by the Ministry of Health–General Directorate of Preventive Health, a national seminar brought together representatives of professional, national and international organizations (WHO, FAO, King Abdul-Aziz City for Science and Technology, Saudi Paediatric Association); community workers; policy-makers; and local and national authorities dealing with health, environment, and education. The purpose of the seminar was to direct efforts to celebrate WHD 2003 and to support the global Healthy Environments for Children Alliance.
- The King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre conducted press outreach on healthy environments for children. They arranged for the publication of articles written by physicians, specialists and health educators in the medical page of the Riyadh newspaper, as well as interviews with three of the hospital physicians on Saudi television and radio.
- World Health Day 2003 events at the Madinah Maternity and Children's Hospital, Madinah, included lectures, group discussions at different levels, and exhibitions on healthy environments for children.
- The King Fahad Hospital in Jeddah held a one-day symposium for an estimated 250 school children. It included four lectures and distribution of painting booklets, WHD 2003 pens, and WHD 2003 T-shirts.

#### **Tunisia (the Republic of)**

- The Ministry of Public Health organized learning sessions, forums, and workshops on the WHD 2003 theme the weekend of 5/6 April. On World Health Day 2003, they facilitated a conference on priority environmental risk areas (water, food security, chemical hazards, waste management) in relation to child health. Primary schools, high schools and universities participated in the activities.



## Europe

### **Regional Office**

- On World Health Day 2003, WHO/EURO officially launched preparations for the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest, 2004), the theme of which is “The Future for Our Children”. Press conferences were held on 3 April in Brussels and Rome, and on 7 April in Bonn, Moscow, Oslo and Stockholm.
- BBC World Radio and UN Radio-New York interviewed the WHO Regional Director for Europe on the occasion of World Health Day 2003.
- A press kit, which included a press release, a fact sheet, and a monograph of “Children’s Health and Environment: A review of evidence”, was produced by WHO/EURO. It was translated into four official languages and distributed to a EURO media list with more than 1 500 contacts.
- A Russian version of the WHD 2003 brochure was produced and sent to Russian-speaking countries of the Region, for further distribution by Liaison Officers to national media and policy makers.
- WHO/EURO, in conjunction with the European Public Health Alliance, produced the brochure “Tackling Environmental Threats”.
- A WHD 2003 briefing was held for European Ambassadors based in Copenhagen on 7 April at the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

### **Albania (the Republic of)**

- *Milieukontakt Oost Europa* (Tirana) facilitated the creation of a WHD 2003 exhibition using designs from children ages 7–10 and 11–14. The exhibition served to make parents, teachers, politicians, and the general public aware of how environmental hazards can affect children’s health.

**Armenia (the Republic of)**

- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, a media briefing was conducted and a press conference was broadcast on one of the national television channels.

**Belgium (the Kingdom of)**

- The Federal Health Service produced a special publication on the World Health Day 2003 theme.
- The *Liège Province Santé* created an exposition on healthy environments for children. The exposition was visited by children from nearby elementary schools during 1–7 April.
- The *Association Intercommunale de Santé de la Basse Sambre* held an educational activity on interventions preventing children's ill-health from environmental hazards.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

- Members of the NGO *Centar za mlade Youth House*, Sarajevo, and children from local elementary schools and kindergartens participated in a WHD 2003 event entitled "Make our Future Brighter and Healthier Now!" The Minister of Health attended the event, which featured a fashion show (using models made from garbage inscribed with the message "Clean Environment"), songs and dances.
- The Primary Saint Sava School, in Kakmuz, carried out the following activities during the first week in April: tutorials dedicated to ecology; a competition for the best work exemplifying "My environment"; composition of a newspaper dedicated to the theme "Let's take care of our environment"; creation of placards featuring ecological themes; a day of environment-related activities (4 April); and a bicycle race.

**Croatia (the Republic of)**

- The Ministry of Health organized a national conference in commemoration of World Health Day 2003. Attendees included a special representative of the President, Minister of Health, Mayor of Zagreb, and other policy makers.



- The Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Education, organized workshops for children on the HEC theme.
- April 7th was declared a traffic-free day in the centre of Zagreb, an action that underlined the importance of both healthy environments and physical activity.
- A radio programme on the WHD 2003 theme was conducted with the WHO Liaison Officer.
- At a county level, lectures, workshops, exhibitions of drawings from Health-Promoting Schools, performances, and sports competitions for children were organized to mark World Health Day 2003.

#### **Czech Republic**

- To mark World Health Day 2003, a press conference took place at the Ministry of Health. The Minister of Health, Country Office WHO programme coordinators, and other experts were present. The Czech Centre of Social and Legislative Protection of Children also held a regional meeting on this occasion.

#### **Estonia (the Republic of)**

- The Estonian Centre for Health Education and Promotion, National Children's Programme, with the support of the Tallinn Educational Department and Project "Be Smoke FREE", held a seminar on healthy and safe school environments for children in Harju County.

#### **France (the French Republic)**

- *Allaitement Des Jumeaux et Plus* held a meeting of mothers and children on pollution in the home and community environments. They discussed asthma and allergies, how to prevent exposure to environmental hazards, and the role of breastfeeding.

## **Georgia**

- World Health Day 2003 activities were planned and carried out by Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs in co-operation with WHO and other UN agencies. These included: an open-house, accompanied by medical examinations, in all child health-and-prevention settings throughout the country; lectures on healthy lifestyles for pregnant women and young mothers; complete medical examinations for over 500 children in four orphanages; visitation by policy makers to child clinics, orphanages, and homes for disabled children; a press conference with the Minister of Health, the UN Resident Coordinator, WHO and UNICEF; and an exhibition of paintings at the UN House.
- Studio ADC in Tbilisi works to produce Radio/TV programmes and publish newspaper pieces for and by children. For World Health Day 2003, the Studio conducted two events in secondary schools, emphasizing the importance of healthy environments for children.
- The Axaldaba Homeless Children's School, Tbilisi, Borjomi Region, carried out lessons and games on healthy environments for children.
- ADRA PHISCO staff, together with local authorities and organizations, focussed activities on clean water, hygiene, safe playgrounds, safe use of chemicals, protection from vector-borne diseases and safe food. These topics were discussed through workshops, forums with village administrators, round tables, lectures, newsletters, articles, bulletins and mass media participation in South Ossetia.

## **Germany (the Federal Republic of)**

- At an event hosted by the Federal Association for Health in Bonn, speeches were given by the Minister of Health, a representative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and experts. Two workshops were held for experts on the following themes: the influence of environmental factors on child health and practical implementation; international and inter-ministerial collaboration on environment and health issues.

## **Greece (the Hellenic Republic)**

- The Hellenic Medical Students' International Committee held lectures on healthy environments for children at the University Hospital Amphitheatre, Alexandroupoli.



### **Hungary (the Republic of)**

- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, a national health conference on the HEC theme was held. Dr Marc Danzon, WHO Regional Director for Europe, participated as key-note speaker. Awards were given to the winners of a children's drawing contest at the conference.
- Parallel to the national conference, World Health Day 2003 celebrations and drawing contests were carried out in 19 counties.
- April 7th, World Health Day 2003, marked the launch of a long-term campaign on healthy environments for children, in preparation to the Forth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Budapest, June 2004.

### **Ireland**

- Dublin's National Poisons Information Centre and the Health Promotion Department in Beaumont Hospital worked together to increase awareness of healthy environments for children by conducting press outreach and disseminating information materials.
- The "International Seminar to Promote Awareness of World Health Day 2003" was held at The Mansion House, Dublin, with the co-operation of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Dermot Lacey. The seminar was chaired by Deputy B. O'Keeffe, Chair of the Health and Children Committee of the Irish Parliament. The seminar consisted of perspectives from health organizations followed by experiential case-studies of healthy environments and countries.

### **Italy (Italian Republic)**

- A meeting entitled "Environment, Health and Children" marked World Health Day 2003 in Florence.
- A round table on healthy environments for children, specifically highlighting domestic accidents, environmental smoke, and the role of education, was hosted by *Professione Medica*.
- In Ravenna, the municipal health department, in collaboration with the local Green Party and NGOs, hosted a street fair and seminar on healthy environments for children for World Health Day 2003.

- International Society of Doctors for the Environment Italy, *Federazione Italiana Medici Pediatri*, the municipality of Cremona, and *Agenzia Regionale Protezione Ambiente* held the following activities for World Health Day 2003: a press conference; distribution to mothers of pamphlets on air pollution and respiratory diseases; and presentation of the Italian-language version of the WHO-EEA "Children's Health and Environment: A Review of Evidence".
- The *Azienda USL di Ferrara* held a World Health Day 2003 event at the Auditorium Biblioteca Bassani in Ferrara. The environment and health relationship, particularly regarding embryos and infants, was discussed.
- The staff of the library at the *Istituto Superiore di Sanità* provided their internal and external users with information and materials on World Health Day 2003.

#### **Kyrgyzstan (the Kyrgyz Republic)**

- WHO Kyrgyzstan, in cooperation with other UN agencies, Bishkek city administration and Radio Europa-Plus, organized a health festival on the theme of "Healthy Environments for Children" at the Central Square in Bishkek. More than 1 000 children attended. This was accompanied by a press conference.
- On the occasion of World Health Day 2003, a poster contest was arranged for hospitalized children. Winners received prizes at an awards ceremony.

#### **Latvia (the Republic of)**

- The WHO Liaison Office in Latvia, the Health Promotion Centre, and the UNICEF National Committee for Latvia worked together to organize World Health Day 2003 activities in the Saldus District. These included, among others: press briefings; the designation of a hospital as "baby-friendly"; and a ceremony to mark the signing of an inter-ministerial agreement to continue support to the Health-Promoting School Network in Latvia. The later event was attended by the Minister of Education and Science, the Minister for Special Assignments for Children and Family Affairs, the State Secretary, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Latvia.



**Lithuania (the Republic of)**

- The Ministry of Health and the State Public Health Service, the National Health Education and Promotion Centre, and the WHO Liaison Office in Lithuania joined forces to celebrate World Health Day 2003. They facilitated a series of activities, including: an event at the central park of Vilnius (attended by the Minister of Health, J. Olekas); production and dissemination of a black and white “measuring tape” poster, which was coloured by school children across the country and then displayed; ten conferences, in different parts of the country, on healthy environments for children; media coverage.

**Macedonia (the Former Yugoslav Republic of)**

- Macedonian Association of Doctors for the Environment "MADE", in collaboration with instructors, hosted an event in the Koco Racin Elementary School in Kumanovo.

**Moldova (the Republic of)**

- The Ministry of Health and the WHO Liaison Office, in collaboration with national media, implemented various public outreach programmes on the theme of healthy environments for children. These included: television programmes on the HEC theme; radio programmes with guest speakers from the Ministry of Health and WHO; a contest entitled “How Do You Protect Your Children From Environmental Threats?” publicized in print media; and a contest among 22 journalists for the best print pieces on the HEC theme.
- Vice-Minister of Health and representatives from UNICEF partook in the World Health Day 2003 round table “Healthy Environments – Healthy Children”.
- Funds were donated to an orphanage on the occasion of World Health Day 2003.

### Norway (the Kingdom of)

- On the occasion of World Health Day 2003, Environment Commissioner of the European Commission, Margot Wallström, visited a specialist hospital for children and young people with allergies and asthma in Oslo. The European Commission's principal contribution to the day was the unveiling of a detailed European action plan to deal with the growing problem of illness and diseases caused by environmental pollution in Europe.

### Poland (the Republic of)

- The WHO Country Office in Poland, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and the Centre of Oncology–Health Promotion Foundation, facilitated a conference entitled “Clearing the Air of Tobacco Smoke: Healthy Environments for Children”. A press conference enabled subsequent national media coverage of the event.

### Portugal (the Portuguese Republic)

- As their contribution to World Health Day 2003, the *Centro de Informação Antivenenos* participated in the national organizing committee; submitted text on children and poisonings for the WHD 2003 national information campaign; held a lecture on children and poisoning on 7 April; and conducted press outreach on poisonings.
- On 7 April, Smokebusters's Clubs held all-day activities with an estimated attendance of 1 000 children. Activities included musical performances, dances, drama and workshops on healthy leisure time activities.
- The General Directorate for Health held an open session for journalists, NGO representatives, and health, environment and education professionals. The Minister of Health gave the opening speech. The session consisted of two panels on the following topics: environmental risks including unintentional injuries, chemical hazards and non-ionizing radiation; healthy environments for children in the school and the city, and as part of sustainable development.
- UNIC Lisbon produced and disseminated Portuguese translations of the WHD 2003 Statement by Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the WHD 2003 sticker.



## Romania

- The Ministry of Health and Family organized a “Children for Children” show and collaborated in a press conference on the occasion of World Health Day 2003.
- The Public Health Department of Iassy hosted the following World Health Day activities: a debate on environmental health issues at an Iassy high school; a drawing competition among primary school students on healthy environments for children; a presentation of the movie “Tobacco or Health”; and round tables on local television on 7 April.
- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, the Public Health Organization of Targoviste, Dambovita, held a debate on issues relevant to healthy environments for children. Topics included the risks of a polluted environment; healthy homes, schools and communities; priorities and solutions; water and air quality; and vector-borne diseases.

## Russian Federation

- The Euro-Asian Chapter of INCHEM (International Research and Information Network on Children’s Health, Environment, and Safety) dedicated Network Bulletin #12 to World Health Day 2003.
- The Centre for Children and Tourism in Lomonosov prepared and distributed a call for action for World Health Day 2003, offered lectures on the themes “health and environment” and “healthy lifestyles”, and conducted a conference on children’s health and the environment.
- A press conference was organized by the WHO Office of the Special Representative of the Director-General in Russia. The Ministry of Health, UNICEF, UNEP, ILO, UNFPA and UNESCO participated. Subsequently, World Health Day 2003 received wide coverage in national press.
- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, an art exhibition on healthy environments for children was held 9–18 April. It featured the work of the well-known Russian artist Ilya Komov.

### **Serbia and Montenegro**

- The Railway Health Institute held an event entitled *Zdravo dete - buducnost planete* (Healthy Child – Future of the Planet). As part of this event, children were offered a train trip from the polluted centre of Belgrade to the National Park of Fruska Gora and the horse farm "Zobnatica".
- The Medical Centre Bor, in cooperation with DMI Bor, the elementary school "IX Brigada", the scouts division "R.J. Coce" and the authorizations inspection services, organized a study on the health of youth. The study entailed: data collection on children's health conditions in Bor; solicitation of expert opinions on their health conditions; collection of environment-related photos of the most important places where children live; promotion of obtained results at a meeting in the City Library on 8 April.

### **Slovakia (the Slovak Republic)**

- The second annual festival of films relating to health, entitled "Aeskulap", marked World Health Day 2003.

### **Slovenia (the Republic of)**

- The WHO Collaborating Centre for PHC Nursing at the University of Maribor held a round table on children's health in commemoration of World Health Day 2003. Keynote speaker Dr Geir Gunnlaugsson, Director of the Centre for Children's Health in Reykjavik, Iceland, reported on the EU/EEA project on child health and indicators for child health.

### **Spain (the Kingdom of)**

- In addition to events involving public outreach, the environmental health unit at the *Hospital Infantil Universitario La Fe* in Valencia presented a study examining the adverse effects of environmental contaminants on children's health.



- In Aragón, the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Department of Education, launched a two-day film festival featuring short films on health. These short documentaries were made by students, and served to educate them on health issues (including the WHD 2003 theme) and filmmaking.
- The Canary Island Network of Health-Promoting Schools, which includes 850 elementary students, realized 26 interactive workshops on themes related to health for World Health Day 2003.
- The *Ayuntamiento de San Bartolomé de Tirajana* organized a week of media outreach on the topic of healthy environments for children (1–7 April) and a child's fair and seminar with expert speakers on 7 April.
- A workshop on healthy environments for children was carried out by the *Asociación de Promoción de la Salud de Galicia* in Ferrol. Follow-up activities include the creation of two working groups to develop ongoing HEC research programmes in local high schools.

#### **Switzerland (the Swiss Confederation)**

- The World Alliances for Health Care (WAHC) organized the “Forum on Safe Environment and Health Rights for Children” in commemoration of World Health Day 2003.

#### **Turkey (the Republic of)**

- Members of the Bartin Children's Council, on the occasion of World Health Day 2003, participated in a forum in which children were given the opportunity to express their hopes and concerns for the current state of the environment in the city of Bartin.
- The President of Turkey issued a press release on the occasion of World Health Day 2003.
- Turkish scouts and leaders prepared a workshop guide and subsequent programme to build public awareness among municipality figureheads, scout leaders, teachers, and youth leaders. The guide and workshop programme highlighted the risks of accidents and environmental hazards to children's health.

- The Istanbul Lisesi–Social Support & Red Crescent Club designed an intensive two-week period (1–13 April) dedicated to health. In addition, a special committee for WHD 2003 was established.
- The Healthy Cities Project Office of Çankaya celebrated World Health Day 2003 through multiple activities for children, including ceramic and wall painting, drama, and playing with the teetotum (a traditional Turkish toy). The Chamber of Architects, the Chamber of Environmental Engineers, Çatı Children Club, the Foundation of Culture and Art for Social Research, and the Scouting and Guiding Federation of Turkey collaborated in this event.
- The WHO Country Office in Turkey, through the help of WHO volunteers, translated WHD 2003 materials, disseminated them to ministries, NGOs, and professional associations, and arranged for a press conference for World Health Day 2003. The WHO Liaison Officer served as Guest Speaker on eight television and radio programmes.
- The Ministry of Health, Turkey, implemented the following activities in commemoration of World Health Day 2003: controls of the safety of water and food in schools; teaching of traffic safety rules to students by traffic officials; slide shows, conferences and HEC seminars in primary schools of the Social Services Provincial Directorates; poster, slogan, poem, essay-writing and speech competitions on healthy environments for children; recommended incorporation of HEC issues into curriculum in schools on 7 April; tree planting with youth to create “Healthy Forests”; visitation of handicapped youth in their homes; public announcements and training; and media outreach.

#### **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

- The Queens Park Family Service Unit hosted a World Health Day 2003 event called “Making Health Fun in a Healthy Environment”, which included educational programmes, stalls and displays of leaflets, community dances, musical performances and school outings.
- The House of Commons “Seminar to Promote Awareness of World Health Day 2003” focused parliamentary attention on healthy environments for children and promoted public awareness of the issue.
- The Yew Tree Healthy Living Centre, in Walsall, West Midlands, produced a display to raise awareness of healthy environments for children.



- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, the Bracknell Central Library in Berkshire made information material displays in all nine library branches.
- The YMCA in Leicester hosted a health workshop to promote healthy lifestyles for people in the 16–25 age group. The ambition was to make them generally more aware of their own personal health and health issues around the world.

#### **Uzbekistan (the Republic of)**

- The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan undertook the following activities in commemoration of World Health Day 2003: a press conference; the dedication of primary and secondary school classes on 7 April to the theme of healthy environments for children; community meetings with health workers and specialists on issues such as ecology, hygiene, and sanitation; and TV/radio transmission of HEC round tables with leading national specialists in the fields on medicine and ecology.
- A WHD 2003 “fun run” competition for students of the National University was organized by WHO and the ECOSAN Foundation.

## **South-east Asia**

### **Regional Office**

- The SEARO 2003 Calendar on the theme "Healthy Environments for Children" was produced, printed and distributed to all member countries of the South-East Asia Region.
- A WHD 2003 Web site was created on the SEARO Internet Domain.
- A one minute video clip on healthy environments for children was released by the WHO Regional Office on the occasion of World Health Day 2003.

### **Bangladesh (the People's Republic of)**

- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and WHO-Bangladesh marked WHD 2003 with events including an art and essay competition, a national seminar, a press briefing, activities in eight "healthy cities", and a tree planting programme.

### **Bhutan (the Kingdom of)**

- The Bhutan Health Department and the WHO Country Office for Bhutan facilitated numerous activities targeting children, teachers and caregivers, with the cooperation of the Minister of Health and Education, His Excellency Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup.

### **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

- The WHO Country Office for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea carried out the following activities for World Health Day 2003: extensive mass media outreach (newspapers, magazines, broadcast, railway and tram TV); training for teachers and nurses on healthy environments for children issues; controls of schools, checking the "healthiness" of the environment; and activities to ameliorate unhealthy environments.



## India (the Republic of)

- The Prantik Medical & Research Centre organized an awareness walk, a children's health checkup, sports activities, and a seminar on the rights of children in West Bengal. The awareness walk began with a street meeting featuring an address by the State Sports and Transport Minister, Sri Subhas Chakraborty, who recently released a book in Bengali on healthy environments for children.
- A World Health Day 2003 assembly, attended by an anticipated 600 people including teaching staff and students of the Government Medical College and the Shree Sayaji General Hospital, took place in Gujarat, India, on 7 April. The event ended with symposia featuring technical experts.
- The PSH-SMC-STD Care & Documentation Centre implemented activities in different slum areas in the city of Surat. These included a street play, mass meetings, a magic show, awareness-raising events, a public rally, poster exhibitions, video showings and group meetings.
- MIMER Medical College, in Maharashtra, India, organized a poster competition, essay contest, street play, speech contest and students' seminar.
- The MG Institute of Medical Sciences organized a symposium on healthy environments for children for undergraduate and post-graduate students. Essay and poster competitions also took place. These events were carried out in Uran, Wharda, Bhidi and Anji.
- The Armed Forces of the Indian Government carried out publicity for World Health Day 2003 via official letters, the cinema hall, cable TV and public announcements with a loudspeaker in Devliali. A lecture and a health exhibition also took place.
- The Dr D. Y. Patil Medical College for Women, in Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra, conducted a poster and essay competition in the week prior to World Health Day 2003. A seminar was held on the day.
- North Western Railway (Government of India) carried out a general checkup of children with reference to environment-related diseases, as well as a checkup of homes, schools and other places.

- The Institute of Health Systems (IHS), in HACA Bhavan Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, implemented a public health symposium for WHD 2003. The symposium highlighted the top three risk factors responsible for accidents in children, and brought together lead paediatricians and child safety experts.
- The L.T.M. Medical College and & L.T.M.G. Hospital in Sion observed WHD 2003 by organizing the following events: a drawing competition for municipal school children, a seminar, an exhibition, a street play and the release of a booklet on healthy environments for children.
- A panel discussion on healthy environments for children was held at the Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
- A health awareness campaign on the topic of healthy environments for children was conducted for troops & families of the Indian Armed Forces in Tezpur.
- The Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre conducted training sessions for treating basic health problems with the assistance of 1,200 women volunteers from poor households. In commemoration of WHD 2003, healthy environments for children were incorporated into the training.
- The Dr V.M. Medical College, in Solapur, Maharashtra, held a children's poster exhibition, seminar, quiz competition, and essay competition for the staff and students.
- The Station Health Organisation of the Indian Navy in Maharashtra hosted a symposium on healthy environments for children comprising school teachers, senior doctors and representative students from different schools of the Naval area. The symposium was followed by health talks at five big schools in the area attended by 9 000 children.
- In celebration of World Health Day 2003, BREATHE Trust (Nagpur) facilitated an exhibition, a lecture and video display, the distribution of health booklets and free medicines to needy asthma patients, and a lecture on health and tobacco.
- The Department of Community Medicine at the Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences held a procession through the streets of Hubli with banners on healthy environments for children, accompanied by the distribution of leaflets on the subject.



- An international seminar, co-sponsored by the Indian Board of Alternative Medicines in Calcutta, discussed the role and responsibility of the medical community in providing and ensuring healthy environments for children. The seminar also addressed how doctors can work in tandem with their local communities to ensure healthy environments and also how a holistic approach to health and well-being is interlinked to the environment. Tentative plans of action were drawn up by participants as to how they can work with the communities they serve to help provide for cleaner environments. A number of proposals were put forth, including the formation of committees to coordinate future meetings and execute plans.
- The 17th Mountain Division of the Indian Armed Forces organized a WHD 2003 event for troops, their families and the civil population living in the area. Lectures, exhibitions, poster showings, demonstrations and seminars were organized to heighten awareness among the population on the need for healthy environments for children.
- The Adichunchangiri Institute of Medical Sciences (Karnataka) hosted an event that included lectures on the relevance of the WHD 2003, a debate competition for medical undergraduate students and a poster competition.
- The Kurukshetra Panorama & Science Centre in Haryana held a poster contest, slogan-writing contest, and health quiz and lecture on healthy environments for children.
- A training and awareness-building programme for local leaders and school administration was hosted by the Tata Iron and Steel Company at the Community Centre of Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. The programme touched on urban environment issues like safe water supply, communicable diseases, traffic and accidents, vehicular emission and pollution, solid waste collection and disposal, and the recycling of household waste.
- The Government Medical College in Miraj hosted a health exhibition, radio talk, articles in local newspapers, group discussions, a programme called “2 Hours with the Orphan Children of Remand Home”, a poster-making project, an activity called Rangloi, and slogan competitions for World Health Day 2003.

- The K. S. Hegde Medical Academy hosted an art competition at two primary and high schools in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, Karnataka State. The competition was followed by a group discussion—involving health workers, health promotion team volunteers, doctors, parents and the office-bearers of the school—on problems relating to the environment around the school. As of 7 April, committees have been established to design and implement strategies to overcome environmental hazards to children's health.
- In Tamil Nadu, the Ministry of Railways involved an estimated 1 000 children in a speech debate on the World Health Day 2003 theme. Children were asked to speak about the prevailing situations at home, in school and in the community that adversely affect the health of children.
- The R. K. Mahila Mandali organization conducted educational outreach on the issue of healthy environments for children to dwellers of the Kakinda urban slums and the doctors that serve this population.
- The NGO INSARD focussed their WHD 2003 campaign on the environments in which children work, specifically, the match industries of Sattur. They carried out awareness-building among child workers, educating them on measures they can take to protect their health at work.
- In the Sr. Secondary School, Chandigarh, a presentation by experts and a lecture on the theme of healthy environments for children was facilitated by PGIMER.
- A seminar on healthy environments for children, hosted by the PS Medical College, was held at the Shree Krishna Hospital in Karamsad, Anand, Gujarat.
- Organized by the IGMCM Shimla, a race with 450 medical students holding banners on healthy environments for children took place in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
- Wockhardt Hospitals, Ltd., Kolkata, organized "hum PAINTING bhi karenge", a sit-n-draw competition for children. The event was attended by schoolchildren from various art schools in the region, including MP Birla Swar Sangam, Bani Chakra, Sardacharan Aryan Art & Drawing School, among others. The judges were prominent contemporary painters, doctors, athletes, leaders and other distinguished guests.



- To educate people at-large on World Health Day 2003, the National Institute of Occupational Health displayed banners in the regional language at different traffic signals in Ahmedabad.
- At the Umang Day Care Centre in Rajasthan, grandparents taught their grandchildren about healthy environments for children on the occasion of World Health Day 2003. The Indian Gerontological Association organized this event.
- A series of seminars was arranged by the Department of Community Medicine at the Yenepoya Medical College in Mangalore for World Health Day 2003.
- The Institution of Public Health Engineers, in Kolkata, coordinated an event that included outreach to school children and panel discussions by experts.
- The Indian Medical Association held an event at the Red Cross, Patiala. Lectures were given by association members on healthy environments for children. More than 60 doctors and social workers attended.
- The BVP Medical College in Pune conducted a survey on the awareness of the theme of WHD 2003 during the weeks before and after 7 April. A WHD 2003 seminar was also held on 7 April.
- The Government Medical College in Srinagar, Kashmir, hosted an event to provide awareness to medical graduates about the theme of this year's World Health Day.
- The A.H. Regional Cancer Centre, in Cuttack, Orissa, held a seminar to build awareness of healthy environments for children among doctors, paramedical workers of the cancer centre, and the members of the medical college and medical establishments in neighbouring areas. Children actively took part in the seminar; children who were cancer survivors presented on their experiences, and children of faculty members openly discussed how they thought their own environments were unsafe.

- The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development celebrated World Health Week from 1–7 April 2003. Events focused on topics related to healthy environments for children, such as drinking water, sanitation and personal hygiene, safety, balanced diet, nutrition of children, environment pollution, etc. Children, parents, health workers, NGOs, and the Department of Environment, Rural Development, and Health were involved.
- The organization *Radha Krishna Mahila Mandali* held a panel discussion with public health experts and paediatricians on television for World Health Day 2003.
- The Military Hospital in Fatehgarh facilitated the following activities in the local schools: poster competition for children incorporating the theme for this year's WHD; essay competition for high school children; quiz competition on healthy living, accidents and other environmental challenges; display of theme-related material on the school notice board.
- Ladies from different parts of Gujarat participated in the “All India Women Conference”, during which several aspects of health care for women and children were discussed. Healthy environments for children was emphasized.
- The Institute Hospital in Madras held speaking and essay writing contests on healthy environments for children, as well as free checkups for children, in commemoration of World Health Day 2003.
- In Ahmedabad, a small clinic was run for the community by the Bhagawatnagar Society. The clinic included a health education programme, a public awareness programme for improvement of the environment, a women's group meeting, and the development of an advocacy strategy for improvement of slum dwellings.
- The Shree Krishna Hospital, P. S. Medical College, Karamsad, celebrated World Health Day 2003 by sponsoring an essay competition, a poster competition, and a health exhibition on healthy environments for children. These events were in addition to a seminar planned for the day (registered separately).
- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, a public health initiative for the population of Jodhpur, covering the topic of healthy environments for children, was launched with help of the Sahali Gaints Club of women.



- The AIMS College of Medicine, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre (Cochin, Kerala), coordinated two activities: a quiz for medical students on healthy environments for children, and the implementation of a 23-school-wide programme fostering School Health Clubs that monitor and promote healthy environments in schools.
- The Government Medical College in Majura Gate, Surat, hosted an orientation for medical students on healthy environments for children. The orientation entailed a seminar with five lectures by paediatricians, community medicine experts and psychiatrists.
- As their contribution to World Health Day 2003, L & T Hirni Cement Works hosted a workshop for children, parents, and school children on preventative health care, basic domestic first aid and children's oral hygiene.
- The Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences facilitated workshops in each of the following villages: Javarnahalli, Chikkashettekere, Doddashettey Kere, Chakena Halli and Byadarahalli. Village leaders, community groups, and *anganawadi* and health workers were educated on how to ensure healthy environments for children.
- The Chinglepet Railway Station (Tamil Nadu) featured an exhibition on AIDS awareness and healthy environments for children.
- The N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur, facilitated a talk by Mr Chest, Physician and Paediatrician, on healthy environments for children issues at a local secondary school.
- The Station Health Organization "Bareilly Cantonment" in Bareilly organized multiple activities to sensitize the military, civil populace and the children of local schools to the HEC theme. Activities included: poster-making; slogan writing; English and Hindi essay writing competitions among 7 000 children; a poster exhibition, a panel discussion; a special workshop for health and sanitary inspectors of the Armed Forces and the local government; and various audio-visual presentations on healthy environments for children.
- The Mohta Children & Ent Hospital held an orientation lecture and a panel discussion on healthy environments for children at the Zilha Parishad Campus, Civil Lines, Nagpur, followed by a mass awareness camp at Bangladesh Slums, Panchpaoli, Nagpur.
- The Sushila Ayurveda Research Centre & Medical Trust (Nashik) held an event on World Health Day 2003 that focused on malnutrition among children.

- The Pravara Medical Trust organized a poster competition involving 60 schools attended by 4 500 children in Ahmednagar. In addition, they held an awareness rally and street play (attended by 1 200 people), a speaking contest, and a community strategy discussion on how to improve the environment for the sake of children. Follow-up activities include the monitoring of drinking water and measurements to improve sanitation.
- The Rajasthan branch of Private Medical Practitioner's of India hosted a seminar on healthy environments for children at the Chamber of Commerce & Industries in Jaipur. Approximately 150 medical practitioners attended. The seminar was presided by the Honourable Minister Sh. Hari Singh Kumber, Cabinet Minister of Rajasthan; Dr K.L. Jain, President of the Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Rajasthan; and Dr C.S. Agarwal, President of Private Medical Practitioner's Association of India.
- The Sri Ramana Maharishi Eye Hospital conducted an eye camp for school children at Nallavanpalayan Village, Tiruvannamalai, in commemoration of World Health Day 2003.
- In collaboration with the Shri Sajjan Rao Vidya Sam Elementary School for children of the slums, the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry, V.S. Dental College, held a street parade and play. The parade passed through three slum districts of Bangalore, while participants shouted the "Healthy Environments for Children" slogan in the local language. Activities cumulated in a drama on the WHD 2003 theme for inhabitants of the Rajagopal Garden slum.
- The Indian Medical Association, Berhampur Branch, held the following activities as their contribution to World Health Day 2003: an awareness seminar on child health; blood donation camps; free health checkups; and hepatitis-B immunizations.
- World Health Day 2003 was celebrated at the Ranchi Army Station in Jharkhand through the following activities: lectures by specialists in preventive medicine and paediatrics; a health exhibition; healthy home competitions; and family welfare meetings aimed at generating awareness on healthy environments for children. Officers, their families and the local community participated.
- A poster competition on healthy environments for children was facilitated at the Red Cross Centre in Nashik, Maharashtra, with the support of the local NGO Jaaniv.



- The Edapally School Health Initiative (ESHI) was inaugurated on World Health Day 2003 in Edapally, Cochin. The objective of ESHI is to make all 35 schools of the Edapally Block models for healthy environments and adequate sanitation within the next year. The Block Panchayat, the Health Department and the Education Department have vouched their cooperation for the venture.
- A 90-minute public session on the WHD 2003 theme was held at the auditorium, Central Hospital, South Eastern Railway, for the staff and railway beneficiaries. More than 130 members attended.
- The Shahjahanpur branch of the Indian Medical Association celebrated World Health Day 2003 with an inter-sectoral panel discussion covering the following topics: hygiene and sanitation; air pollution; chemical and industrial pollution; safe drinking water; unintentional injuries and accidents; disease vectors; and mental and spiritual health. Solutions and interventions were posed by expert members of the audience. Participants in this event included district administrators, social activists, NGO leaders, media representatives, principals and teachers from various schools and club officials.

#### **Indonesia (the Republic of)**

- The Gleneagles Medan Hospital in Medan, Sumatera, planned to host a day of activities for children, including health checkups and health awareness talks. This event is postponed until further notice due to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) quarantine regulations.
- The Asian Medical Students' Association of Diponegoro University held an event involving children at the daily exercise location of many community citizens. The event included providing advice on healthy living, jogging with the children and disseminating information materials.

#### **Myanmar (the Union of)**

- The Ministry of Health has created and disseminated a poster in celebration of World Health Day 2003.
- With the support of the Ministry of Health, the main World Health Day 2003 ceremony was held at the International Business Centre, Yangon on 7 April. This was followed by an exhibition. The Ministry of Health, UN organizations, NGOs and other organizations working in the field of child health displayed informational materials relating to 'healthy environments for children' at this event.

- With the support of the Ministry of Health, a magazine dedicated to World Health Day 2003 was published in April. The contents of the magazine covered a wide range of general and specific health problems, both local and global, as well as health promotion.
- With the support of the Ministry of Health, radio discussions featuring well-known personalities from the fields of health and education were broadcast in eight local languages in April.
- As part of the Ministry of Health's ongoing HEC campaign, song and dance competitions on healthy environments for children will be broadcast on television in May.
- In June, the Ministry of Health will facilitate a series of Question and Answer sessions to be carried out among school children. This will be broadcast on national television.
- In the June – September period, as part of the Ministry of Health's ongoing HEC campaign, essay and drawing competitions at the primary school level will be held.
- In the September – October period, School Sanitation Day activities will be carried out and prizes will be distributed to the winners.
- In the May – October period, health talks at the township level will be carried out by the Red Cross.
- Activities carried out by the WCO - MMR in Myanmar included an evening reception at the Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon, on 7 April. This event included an activity involving 30 children from an orphanage.
- The WCO – MMR facilitated the production of a HEC newsletter to mark World Health Day 2003.



### **Nepal (the Kingdom of)**

- For World Health Day 2003, the NGO "Youth Initiative" held a workshop—gathering children, street children, policy makers and child-focused organizations in Kathmandu—to discuss the problems, possible strategies and action plans to ensure "Healthy Environments for Children".
- The Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu created an exhibition to commemorate World Health Day 2003. The exhibition was composed of 15 stalls—hosted by different medical colleges, schools, medical students' societies and nursing camps—on topics including: chemical hazards, routes of transmission of common parasites and their prevention, superflour preparation method, solar disinfection of water, quality of water in Kathmandu Valley, child labour and child violence, and radiation hazards.

### **Thailand (the Kingdom of)**

- A national policy on HEC will be implemented in all 76 provinces of Thailand during the April to December 2003 period. It will entail the creation of a HEC Steering Committee, a "Health-Promoting School Programme", and "Child Care Center Programme", as well as extensive outreach to the media and the general public.

### **Timor Leste<sup>2</sup> (the Democratic Republic of )**

- The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO, Red Cross volunteers, children and parish-based youth groups, carried out a WHD 2003 clean-up of Dili's main avenue. Top government officials participated in the event. Leading the clean-up team were: His Excellency Prime Minister Mari Bin Amude Alkatiri; Minister of Finance, Madalena Boavida; Minister of Health, Dr Rui Maria de Araujo; and Vice Minister of Health, Mr Luis Lobato. WHD 2003 follow-up activities include community training on environmental health issues in all districts of the country.

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<sup>2</sup> Membership of Timor Leste in the South-east Asia Region is to be confirmed at the 56th World Health Assembly.

- WHO Timor Leste, with the collaboration of the Christian Children's Fund, organized a World Health Day 2003 parade in which 1 250 children participated. The parade featured small skits/street-theatre presentations at stops along the route. The skits were about environmental health issues in different settings. Newspaper, radio, and television media covered the event.
- Minister for Health, Dr Rui Maria de Araujo, delivered a presentation in a plenary session in Parliament on the occasion of World Health Day 2003. The presentation covered issues on the status of environmental health for Timor Leste and possible issues that the legislative body can consider (such as traffic laws and regulations and tobacco-free legislation). In turn, 120 children from different schools presented artwork and songs about healthy environments for children at the public gallery of the National Parliament Building.

#### **Sri Lanka (the Democratic Socialist Republic of)**

- A seminar for media personnel representing both print and electronic media was held on the 20 March 2003 to make them aware of the theme 'Healthy Environments for Children- Shape their Future'. The seminar was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister of Health, Nutrition & Welfare, and 62 media personnel participated.



## **Western Pacific**

### **Regional Office**

- WHO WPRO created a video with Dr Omi's message, a press release, an op-ed by the Regional Director and a fact sheet for World Health Day 2003. The press release, the op-ed, and the fact sheet were translated into Chinese, French, Khmer, Mongolian, Vietnamese and in languages of some Pacific Island countries.

### **Cambodia (the Kingdom of)**

- The WHO Country Office in Cambodia produced a ten-minute documentary on the healthy environments for children for TV broadcast.
- "Especially for You, Young People" is a one-hour live and interactive radio programme produced in Cambodia by Health Unlimited, a British NGO. On 7 April, "Especially for You" broadcast a special programme highlighting World Health Day 2003 and focusing on messages related to children's health, specifically the importance of food hygiene, rubbish disposal and maintaining a good environment for future generations.

### **China (the People's Republic of)**

- The WHO Country Office in China committed to the translation of World Health Day 2003 materials. Materials were distributed to all our District Health Offices and Education Centres.

### **Cook Islands (the)**

- The Cook Islands World Health Awareness Week (7–12 April) provided several awareness-raising activities on the HEC theme. These activities included bilingual radio announcements, two 30-second television spots, and newspaper articles.

**Fiji (the Republic of)**

- The WHO Country Office in Fiji produced “Healthy Environments for Children in Fiji” materials in English, Fijian and Hindi.
- World Health Day 2003 was commemorated during the week of 5–11 April. The official launching was marked with a march through Suva City, led by the Minister for Health. This was followed by a mass clean-up of the City Beach Front. During the ensuing week, other ministries and organizations participated. The Ministry of Education organized school clean-up activities and health talks. Health checkups and clean-ups were conducted at two Orphanage Institutions: Dilkusha and St. Christopher’s Home. A television and radio programme on the theme “Healthy Environments for Children” was also aired on the occasion of World Health Day 2003.

**Lao People's Democratic Republic**

- With the support of the WHO Country Office, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education organized a drawing and essay-writing contest for children on the theme "Healthy Environments for Children". They also arranged for reproduction and dissemination of a collection of the best illustrations and essays.
- The Ministry of Health arranged for a special radio broadcasting on the theme of healthy environments for children for World Health Day 2003.

**Malaysia**

- In Malaysia, World Health Day 2003 events were held in various locations around the country. The formal celebration took place in Kota Kinabalu, State of Sabah, on 6 May 2003. The Minister of Health attended.



## Mongolia

- In Mongolia, the month of April was dedicated to healthy environments for children. This initiative was spearheaded by the Ministry of Health (MOH). Minister for Health, Professor P. Nymadawa, presented tobaccofree legislation in Parliament to raise awareness among law makers on this public health priority. In a televised broadcast on 7 April, the Prime Minister of Mongolia and Representatives of WHO and UNICEF presented the WHD 2003 theme.
- The Ministry of Health, with the support of WHO, translated, printed and distributed WHD 2003 materials and created billboards with WHD 2003 logo.
- In collaboration with the media, the following activities took place: a press conference; radio transmission on HEC with leading national specialists; the publication of a series of articles, as well as the WHD 2003 messages from Mr Kofi Annan, Dr Brundtland and Dr Omi, in national newspapers; the broadcasting of a television spot, featuring a well-known national singer, for two weeks; and an open interview with the public on healthy environments for children.
- The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the City Education Agency, organized a school competition aimed at creating healthy environments in the schools.
- The WHO Country Office in Mongolia translated, printed and distributed WHD 2003 materials. It also assisted the Ministry of Environment with organizing a press conference.
- In commemoration of World Health Day 2003, four-week health sessions for the 180 students of the 9th and 10th grades were conducted in Secondary School N16 in Ulaanbaatar. The following subjects were covered: reproductive health and children, water pollution and children, air pollution and children, and tobacco smoking and children.

## New Zealand

- A joint statement expressing concern about the effects of air pollution on the health of Auckland children, including recommended actions, was made by the Auckland Regional Public Health Service, the Auckland Regional Council and the University of Auckland Department of Paediatrics.

### Niue (the Republic of)

- The WHO Country Office in Niue translated the fact sheets and other materials, as well as liaised with the media.
- World Health Day 2003 was celebrated on Niue Island with a Healthy Environments for Children March from the town centre to the National Medical Centre, Lord Liverpool Hospital. Invitations were distributed to all media, members of parliament, government departments, NGOs, the New Zealand High Commission, and staff and students from local schools. Announcements were also broadcast on radio, inviting the general public to the march. The Health Department, Health Promotion Unit, produced pamphlets emphasizing the HEC message, as well as signs and banners to accompany the supporters that attended the WHD 2003 march. As people marched, rubbish was collected and songs were sung. On arrival at the hospital, speeches were delivered by Dr Harry Paka, Director of Health; Honourable Sandra Lee, New Zealand High Commissioner; and Honourable Fisa Pihigia, Minister of Health.

### Palau (the Republic of)

- The WHO Country Office in Palau celebrated WHD 2003 through demonstrations/presentations on "healthy and safe practices in schools", the translation, printing and distribution of IEC materials on "healthy and safe homes", and environmental improvement works in certain areas frequented by children.
- The Division of Environmental Health, Bureau of Public Health, conducted a community survey and assessment combined with health education and promotion on 'Healthy & Safe Homes for Children' for World Health Day 2003.
- The following media outreach activities took/are taking place in commemoration of World Health Day 2003: a press release in "Palau Horizon", with a message from the Vice President, the Minister of Health, and the WPRO/WHO Regional Director; a live radio talk show—conducted with representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education—and a special episode of "Changing Tides" on Eco-Paradise 87.9FM; and the commencement of media spots on HEC as of 2 April, with plans to continue promotion of the theme via radio, TV, newspaper, billboards, and banners throughout the year.



- On 1 April 2003, a survey was conducted to assess the provision of safe and healthy playgrounds in Health-Promoting Schools and Healthy Communities. Results of the survey were announced on 7 April 2003 and will be used as the basis for future collaborative work among the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and state .
- A Republic-wide Community Assessment Project (7 April 2003 until the end of June 2003) was initiated by the Ministry of Health. The project combines health education and promotion (home visits and IEC materials) on the theme of “Healthy Environments and Safe Homes for Children”.

#### **Papua New Guinea (the Independent State of)**

- The Department of Health mobilized nationwide activities and public outreach to celebrate World Health Day 2003. This included the dedication of the National Health Exposition (12–13 April) to the theme 'Healthy Environments for Children'. Activities staged during the Exposition include dramas on the environment, quizzes, poetry readings by children, song competitions, martial arts displays, video showings, health product/service displays, and private healthcare provider displays.

#### **Philippines (the Republic of the)**

- The Zuellig Foundation, the *Museo Pambata ng Maynila* (Children's Museum of Manila), and ABS CBN Foundation partnered to organize & celebrate this year's World Health Day. They cosponsored a lecture and event entitled “Protecting the Environmental Health of Children”, attended by more than 70 professionals and covered by the media.
- A World Health Day 2003 press conference was conducted by the Department of Health (DOH), in addition to a children's forum, which was held with the participation of underprivileged children, NGOS and the DOH.

**Republic of Korea (the)**

- The Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) organized a conference for parliamentarians, mass media and MOHW officials on healthy environments for children. During the conference, Honourable Kim Hwa-Joong, Minister of Health and Welfare, conferred special government awards to over 50 health officials for their achievements in the field. The MOHW also prepared and distributed two posters for World Health Day 2003.

**Samoa (the Independent State of)**

- The WHO Country Office for Samoa conducted technical activities related to IEC production and the translation of WHD 2003 brochures.

**Solomon Islands**

- The WHO Country Office for the Solomon Islands engaged in the production of IEC material (banners, press releases, radio spots). They also facilitated a World Health Day 2003 parade, a children's speech contest on the theme of the environment, health talks and health cottage meetings.

**Tonga (the Kingdom of)**

- The WHO Country Liaison Office for Tonga, in collaboration with the Health Promotion Unit, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and the Parents/Teachers Associations Committee, supported activities in primary and pre-schools throughout Tonga to raise awareness of Children's Environmental Health. The launching of World Health Day 2003 activities took place at Tonga Side School, a primary school in the capitol. Festivities included plays and poems by students. The event was covered by live radio and television. The message that children's environmental health does not only include risks in the physical environment was emphasized.
- In commemoration World Health Day 2003, the Ministry of health organized school sanitation inspections, walk-a-thons promoting health and a special celebration including aerobic exercises.



- The WHO Country Liaison Office for Tonga coordinated the translation of all WHD 2003 materials into Tonga and liaised with the media to ensure wide coverage of World Health Day 2003.
- Church leaders in Tongatapu observed World Health Day 2003 through the dedication of services to the theme of healthy environments for children.

#### **Vanuatu (the Republic of)**

- Each year in Vanuatu, World Health Day (7 April) is the launching day of "National Health Week". As this year's theme was "Healthy Environments for Children", the full week was dedicated to raising awareness in schools and communities on healthy environments. The speech of Dr Omi was broadcast on television twice during "National Health Week". In addition, a team from the Ministry of Health conducted a clean-up of Port Vila, the capital city, with the support of the inhabitants. Similar activities were carried out on Espiritu Sato Island and Malakula Island.

#### **Viet Nam (the Socialist Republic of)**

- The National Health Exposition, coordinated by the Department of Health, was staged 12–13 April. This year, it was dedicated to the theme "Healthy Environments for Children" in commemoration of World Health Day 2003.
- The WHO Representative in Viet Nam, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Training, the government of the city of Hanoi (Ha Noi People's Committee) and UNICEF, conducted the following World Health Day 2003 activities: promoted the creation of a healthy working and learning environment in the Ly Thuong Kiet Primary School with the involvement of teachers, parents and students; supported a painting competition on the theme of "Healthy Environments for Children"; distributed WHD materials across the nation; celebrated WHD with the participation of political leaders; and assured television and radio media coverage in both Vietnamese and English.



## APPENDIX II: Examples - World Health Day 2003 Print Media Coverage

### Disclaimer:

- *This document contains a compilation of print press clippings that were received at headquarters as of 1 May 2003.*
- *This document serves to show examples only, and should not be considered all-inclusive.*
- *Radio and television coverage is not included.*
- *Due to processing constraints, only press clippings in languages with Latin characters have been incorporated.*



News Agency/Date	Headline	Item
Africa News (Nigeria) (10-04-03)	Borisade Stresses the Need for Healthy School Environment	The Minister of Education, Babalola Borisade, has called on all stakeholders in the education sector to contribute to the development of a healthy learning environment for children, as this was the only way to ensure their all round development.
Agence France Presse (Amman) (07-04-03)	Journée mondiale de la Santé: L'OMS insiste sur le sort des enfants irakiens	L'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) a dénoncé lundi à Amman la menace sérieuse que la guerre fait actuellement peser sur le "droit à la vie" des enfants irakiens. La porte-parole de l'OMS à Amman Fadela Chaib a souligné au cours d'une conférence de presse à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de la Santé, que "le droit fondamental de chaque enfant est le droit à la vie, et que ce droit est sérieusement menacé en Irak".
Agence France Presse (Geneva) (06-04-03)	Children have the right to healthy environments: WHO	The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a rallying call to enforce the rights of children to grow up in a healthy environment, in a statement issued on Sunday. Each year, more than five million children under the age of 14 die from illnesses caused by their environment, the WHO warned. The worst killers among children were diarrhoea, malaria, and acute respiratory illnesses.
Agence France Presse (Geneva) (07-04-03)	Journée mondiale de la Santé: les enfants ont le droit à un environnement sain (OMS)	L'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) souhaite améliorer, à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de la Santé 2003 lundi, le droit des enfants de vivre dans un environnement sain, a indiqué dimanche l'organisation. A l'occasion de cette journée intitulée "Un environnement sain pour les enfants", l'OMS souligne que chaque année, plus de 5 millions d'enfants de moins de 14 ans perdent la vie, principalement dans les pays en développement, des suites de maladies liées à leur environnement, notamment la diarrhée, la malaria de même que d'autres infections respiratoires aiguës.
Agence France Presse (Kabul) (07-04-03)	Afghanistan faces long road to health care: Karzai	It will take Afghanistan 20 to 30 years to raise health standards in the war-torn nation to those of other countries, President Hamid Karzai said Monday in a speech to mark World Health Day. "For people in Afghanistan, World Health Day has more importance than for other countries of the world since the needs of Afghans regarding health services are greater," Karzai said at the Ministry of Health in Kabul.
Agenzia Giornalistica Italia (09-04-03)	World Health Day – From Ciampi Medal to Urbani's Memory	The President of the republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, on the occasion of World Health Day, has, at the proposal of the Minister for Health, Girolamo Sirchia, conferred the medals for merit for public health. The gold medal was awarded to the memory of Carlo Urbani.



American Red Cross (07-04-03)	Celebrate World Health Day on April 7	This year on April 7, the American Red Cross, along with other humanitarian organizations across the globe, will celebrate World Health Day. This World Health Day is dedicated the theme "Healthy Environments for Children." Thousands of events will highlight the importance of healthy children leading productive and happy lives. To read more about World Health Day, go to <a href="http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2003/en">http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2003/en</a> .
Antigua Sun (08-04-03)	Ministry Pledges to Improve Child Health	The Ministry of Health and Social Improvement has pledged its commitment to improving the health of the children of Antigua and Barbuda as they commemorated World Health Day yesterday.
AP WIRE (09-04-03)	Afghan Leader Laments Health Care	President Harnid Karzai said Monday his country's health care system was decades behind the rest of the world, and urged Afghanistan's youth to seek medical training to catch up.
Arab News (via the Saudi Press Agency) (03-04-03)	World Health Day	Health Minister Dr. Osama Shubokshi said the kingdom will observe World Health Day on April 7 along with the other countries of the world. He noted that Saudi Arabia accomplished significant developments in the health sector in the last two decades. Highlighting the importance of observing World Health Day, Dr. Shubokshi said it will positively contribute to the health awareness of citizens.
Associated Press Worldstream (04-04-03)	WHO: Children's health threatened by environmental hazards	The health of the world's children is threatened by environment hazards, the World Health Organization said Friday. The organization's European office said the number of cases of asthma and allergies in children across Europe increased by 200 percent from the 1970s to the 1990s. "Europe is facing an epidemic of allergic diseases and asthma," said Roberto Bertollini, a doctor with WHO's Copenhagen office.
BBC Worldwide Monitoring (07-04-03)	Official urges healthier, safer environment for China's children	About one half of the deaths of Chinese children result from unintentional accidents such as suffocation, and most Chinese children are exposed to smoke because their fathers smoke at home.
BBC Worldwide Monitoring (07-04-03)	Afghan leader chairs World Health Day meeting	The head of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan Esteemed Hamed Karzai attended a ceremony to mark World Health Day this morning. The ceremony was held under the slogans of "Plans for the future life and healthy environments for children" in the hall of the Ministry of Health.



Borneo Bulletin (07-04-03)	The Safest Places for Children in Asia Are Also the Most Dangerous	The safest places for children in Asia are also the most dangerous. More than 1,000 children in the region die every day before reaching their fifth birthday nearly always due to illnesses related to the places where they live, learn, and play, the World Health Organization (WHO) warns.
Brazzaville, Congo, Newsclippings (No. 002, du 16 au 23 avril 2003)	Journée mondiale de la Santé – Les enfants à l'honneur, dans un environnement malsain	Chaque année, l'humanité célèbre le 7 avril, la journée mondiale de la santé. Elle a été placée cette année sous le thème: "un environnement sain pour les enfants", un thème en harmonie avec la nouvelle donne mondiale de la politique environnementale.
Brazzaville, Congo, Newsclippings (07-04-03)	Journée mondiale de la Santé – Un ouvrage d'approvisionnement en eau et d'assainissement inauguré à l'école primaire de Mayanga	Un ouvrage d'approvisionnement en eau et d'assainissement inauguré à l'école primaire de Mayanga, particulièrement défectueux, caractérisé essentiellement par des salles de classes non pas seulement pléthoriques (en moyenne 160 élèves par classe), mais aussi insuffisamment aérées et éclairées, le manque de point d'eau et d'installation sanitaire hygiénique ainsi que de mur d'enceinte de sécurité.
Brazzaville, Congo, Newsclippings (07-04-03)	Journée mondiale de la Santé – L'école primaire de Mayanga se dote d'installations sanitaires	Depuis lundi 7 avril 1993, l'école primaire de Mayanga, située dans la périphérie sud de Brazzaville, s'est dotée d'installations sanitaires, de dispositifs de lave-mains, d'aménagement d'urinoirs, d'une citerne à impluvium pour l'alimentation en eau potable et de 5 postes d'eau avec un dispositif de filtrage.
Brudirect.com – Local News (09-04-03)	World Health Organization Urges Countries to Keep Clean	Bandar Seri Begawan – Brunei joined other nations worldwide celebrating the World Health Day yesterday. This year World Health Day carries the theme "Shape the Future of Life: Healthy Environments for Children".

Business World (International) (11-04-03)	Pollution: WHO's Main Concern for RP	Amid a global scare brought by the new killer pneumonia, the world faces another threat that claims the lives of children.
China Daily (08-04-03)	Health of the Nation's Children Under the Microscope	China marks World Health Day 2003 with various activities such as demonstrations by hospital staff of proper ways of caring for infants and children, free diagnosis and medical consultations. Dr Henk Bekedam, WHO representative for China, said that the biggest threat to children's health lurked in the places where they should be most safe, their homes, schools and communities. He urged China to work towards the realization of the World Health Day theme of "Healthy Environments for Children".
Destination Santé (France) (07-04-03)	Une Journée mondiale pour protéger nos enfants	Aujourd'hui 7 avril, la Journée mondiale de la Santé est célébrée dans le monde entier. Cette année, elle est consacrée à l'instauration d'un environnement sain pour nos enfants. Un vœu dont le moins qu'on puisse dire est qu'il s'impose... Car tous les ans, plus de 5 millions d'enfants de moins de 14 ans meurent de maladies ou d'accidents liés à leur environnement.
Deutsche Presse- Agentur (07-04-03)	Sixty per cent of Polish children are "secondary smokers"	A startling 60 per cent of Polish children fall in the category of secondary smokers, Poland's Ministry of Health announced on Monday, designated World Health Day by the World Health Organization. According to the Ministry of Health estimates, some three million children under the age of 14 are regularly exposed to cigarette smoke at home.
Al Día (Costa Rica) (08-04-03)	Día Mundial de la Salud	NA
Diario de Valencia (08-04-03)	Castellano alerta del peligro para los niños de las enfermedades ambientales	El Conseller de Sanidad, Serafin Castellano, aseguró ayer que "los niños son especialmente vulnerables a los riesgos ambientales y además tienen una mayor expectativa de vida para desarrollar sus efectivos a largo plazo "por lo que señalo que hay que impulsar actuaciones para protegerlos.
Diario Extra (08-04-03)	Ayer se celebró el Día Mundial de la Salud	La casa es el lugar donde los niños sufren más accidentes.



El Heraldo (Costa Rica) (08-04-03)	Enfermedades que aquejan a los niños	NA
English.eastday.com, Shanghai Daily (07-04-03)	WHO: Pollution Puts Asian Children at Risk	The World Health Organization has warned that serious health dangers loom for children in Asia unless greater efforts are made to improve their environment. "Every child has the right to be raised in a healthy environment," Shigeru Omi, Regional Director of WHO's Western Pacific Regional Office in Manila, said in a statement released on the eve of the World Health Day on April 7, which, this year, is dedicated to "Healthy Environments for Children".
EurActive.com Portal News (07-04-03)	EU Preparing Strategy on Environment and Health	In the context of World Health Day on 7 April, Commissioner Margot Wallström announced that the Commission will soon present a specific Community Strategy for Environment and Health. "Shape the Future of Life: Healthy Environments for Children" is the theme of World Health Day 2003. On 7 April, a campaign will be launched which will culminate in the 2004 adoption by European Health Ministers of a children's environment and health action plan for Europe (CEHAPE) at the Fourth WHO Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Budapest.
Europe Information Service – European Report (05-04-03)	Environment: Action Plan to Combat Illnesses Linked to Pollution	With April 7 as World Health Day, the European Commission has announced that a detailed European action plan will soon be unveiled to deal with the growing problem of illness and disease caused by environmental pollution.
Europolitique – Europe Information Service (05-04-03)	Plan d'action pour lutter contre les maladies liées à la pollution	Le 7 avril prochain sera la Journée mondiale de la Santé 2003. A cette occasion, la Commission européenne annonce qu'elle présentera sous peu un plan d'action européen destiné à lutter contre les maladies et les affections causées par la pollution de l'environnement. Une attention particulière y sera accordée aux enfants, particulièrement vulnérables aux nuisances environnementales.
Express News Service (with the New Indian Express) (04-04-03)	Symposium on shielding kids from accidents	The Institute of Health Systems (IHS) organised a public health symposium on "Shielding our Children from Accidents" at Haca Bhavan on April 7 to mark World Health Day.

Financial Times (International) (07-04-03)	The Week Ahead	Monday 7: World Health Day. World Health day focuses on healthy environments for children. According to the World Health Organization, more than 5 million children die every year from illnesses related to polluted water and air, inadequate sanitation, toxic chemicals and accidents.
Gale Group, Inc. (Global Information Network) (03-03-03)	Acuerdo Internacional por un Futuro sin Humo; Convenio Marco para el Control del Tabaco	El convenio internacional para el control del tabaco aprobado este sábado reducirá la morbilidad causada por el tabaquismo y cambiara pautas culturales que influyeron en gran parte del mundo a varias generaciones, según activistas.
Gale Group, Inc. (Global Information Network) (12-03-03)	América Central: Danos a la Salud en Ciudades Sofocadas; contaminación ambiental en ciudades grandes	Respirar puede ser peligroso en ciertas zonas de algunas capitales de América Central, como la hondureña Tegucigalpa, la más contaminada por partículas sólidas de la región. En la atmósfera de las capitales de Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua y Costa Rica se registran partículas totales suspendidas (PTS) superiores al máximo aceptable para la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), de 75 microgramos por metro cubico de aire, señalaron a Tierramerica diversas fuentes.
Gale Group, Inc. (Global Information Network) (25-03-03)	América Central: Los Niños Pagan Onerosa Factura del Agua	La onerosa factura del agua contaminada en América Central recae sobre niños y niñas víctimas de un ambiente degradado. Cinco millones de menores de 14 años fallecen al ano por males relacionados con el ambiente, 80 mil en América Latina y el Caribe, sostiene la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS).
Gale Group, Inc. (Global Information Network) (07-04-2003)	Ambiente Deteriorado por Adultos Enferma a Ninfos	El mundo se desentiende de las mayores amenazas a la salud de los niños, en especial de los que nacen en países en desarrollo, pero esa ignorancia se puede remediar mediante estrategias propuestas por la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS). El desgaste propio de la etapa de crecimiento y las asechanzas del medio determinan la vulnerabilidad de los niños, que deberían ser tratados como "los futuros guardianes de nuestro planeta" dijo la OMS en un llamado para movilizar la opinión publica con motivo del Día Mundial de la Salud, que se celebra este lunes.



Gale Group, Inc. (Letras Libres) (01-04-03)	Por un ambiente saludable para todos los niños; iniciativa gubernamental en México	Las mayores amenazas para la salud de los niños se encuentran precisamente en los lugares donde deberían estar mas seguros: el hogar, la escuela y la comunidad. De acuerdo con estimaciones de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), cada año más de cinco millones de niños – cuyas edades fluctúan de menos de un año a 14 años de edad--, la mayoría de ellos en países subdesarrollados, mueren a causa de enfermedades relacionadas con el ambiente, es decir, con el entorno donde viven, estudian y juegan.
globalpress, Agenzia Giornalistica (Geneva) (07-04-03)	Modella il futuro della vita, ambienti sano per i bambini	Per molti bambini le pareti domestiche, la scuola, la vie dove abitano e giocano rappresentano una grave minaccia per la salute: circe 5 milioni di loro muoiono ogni anno per infezioni respiratorie acute dovute all'inquinamento ambientale.
globalpress, Agenzia Giornalistica (Geneva) (07-04-03)	OMS: L "Ambiente" Minaccia i Bambini	Le più grandi minacce per la salute dei bambini si trovano proprio nei luoghi che dovrebbero essere i più sicuri per loro: in case, nella scuola, e nella comunità. Questo è l'allarme lanciato dal Direttore Generale dell'Organizzazione Mondiale della Sanità (OMS), Gro Harlem Brundtland.
globalpress, Agenzia Giornalistica (New York) (07-04-03)	Tutelare i bambini per un futuro sostenibile	La salute dei bambini è fondamentale per lo sviluppo sostenibile. E per questo motivo che la Giornata Mondiale della Sanità è dedicata quest'anno al tema "Modella il futuro della vita, il ambiente sano per i bambini". Così è intervenuto oggi, 7 aprile, il Segretario General delle Nazioni Uniti, Kofi Annan, in occasione della Giornata Mondiale della Sanità. La vita di un bambino - ha detto Annan – si incentra attorno alla famiglia, alla scuola e alla comunità. Questi dovrebbero essere i luoghi dove i bambini possono giocare, crescere, e sviluppare e dove sono protetti da malattie. Ma in realtà, questi sono spesso luoghi dove i bambini, specie i bambini poveri, subiscono numerose minacce alla loro salute.
Goawebnews - Goa Desc Documentation Service (07-04-03)	World Health Day 2003	Each year on April 7 <sup>th</sup> , the world celebrates World Health Day. On this day around the globe, thousands of events mark the importance of health for productive and happy lives, This year, the theme for World Health Day is "Healthy Environments for Children".

Gulf Daily News (Bahrain) (09-04-03)	Centre Gears Up to Mark Health Day	A special celebration to mark World Health Day will be held tomorrow at the Budaiya Health Centre in Bani Jamra. The celebration, under the patronage of Health Minister Dr. Khalil Hassan, will start at 10 a.m.
Gulf News (Dubai) (07-04-03)	UAE Focuses on Children on World Health Day	Children are the main victims of environment-related diseases, according to WHO, which marks World Health Day today under the theme "Healthy Environments for Children". The UAE Ministry of Health announced here yesterday that it has proposed a working plan to all medical districts to enhance awareness about the importance of raising children in a healthy environment.
Health News (London) (08-04-03)	WHO Highlights Child Health	The World Health Organization (WHO) is calling for action to reduce the 5 million annual deaths caused by infections and accidents. The health needs of children are the focus of this year's World Health Day.
Health Newswire Consumer (07-04-03)	WHO Highlights Child Health	The health needs of children are the focus of this year's World Health Day. WHO is urging member states, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to take more effective and visible action to reduce the toll of environmental hazards on children's lives. WHO Director-General Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland said that the biggest threats to children's health were found in the places that should be the safest: the home, school, and community.
Health 24 News (South Africa) (08-04-03)	Focus on World's Kids	Today the world celebrates World Health Day – a day in which thousands of events mark the importance of health care. This year's theme "Healthy Environments for Children" places the millions of children that die annually from environmentally-related illnesses in the limelight. The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a rallying call to enforce the rights of children to grow up in a healthy environment, in a statement issued on Sunday.
The Herald Online (Zimbabwe) (10-04-03)	Over 5 million die from illnesses	The World Health Organization has revealed shocking statistics showing that over five million children under 14 years die from illnesses and other conditions under which they live, learn, and play.
The Hindu (07-04-03)	Centre Concerned Over Child Health in Capital	New Delhi (UNI)- The Centre and the Delhi government today expressed serious concern over the deteriorating health of the school children in the Capital and blamed modern lifestyles and food habit for the growing number of diabetes cases and other related diseases.



The Hindu (08-04-03)	Need for child-centric policy emphasized	The need for evolving a child-centric policy that takes total care of children, encompassing all aspects, protection being the foremost, was stressed by Thakur V. Hari Prasad, founder president, Thakur Hari Prasad Institute of Research and Rehabilitation for the Mentally Handicapped, here on Monday.
The Korea Times (07-04-03)	Right to a Decent Start in Life	Dr Shigeru Omi, the Regional Director for WHO Western Pacific Region, called on everyone to ensure the right of each child to live, grow and learn in a safe and healthy environment and to protect them from factors that cause childhood diseases and death. He also cited the formation of the Healthy Environment for Children Alliance (HECA), which will work towards this goal.
The Independent (Banjul) (07-04-03)	Illness Accounts for 5 Million Deaths	Dr James Mwanzia, World Health Organization Representative in the Gambia, said illness that are mainly contracted from environmental effects annually accounts for over 5 million children's deaths worldwide. In a statement marking World Health Day on the theme "Healthy Environments for Children", Dr Mwanzia identified children's killer diseases as diarrhoea, respiratory infections, malaria, and other communicable diseases.
L'INTELLIGENT - Jeune Afrique (07-04-03)	Age tendre et dures réalités	OMS. A l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de la Santé du 7 avril, l'organisation internationale braque les projecteurs sur les – nombreuses – maladies liées à l'environnement auxquelles sont exposés les enfants.
IPR Strategic Business Information Database (07-04-03)	World Health Day Highlights Situation of Iraqi Children	According to the "Jordan Times", the international community celebrates World Health Day amidst fears of a severe deterioration in the health of the Iraqi people, particularly children, in light of the ongoing conflict. This year, the World Health Organization is celebrating the annual event under the theme "Healthy Environments for Children".
Islamic Republic News Agency (09-04-03)	90 Percent of AIDS Infection Pertain to Third World Countries	An official from Khorassan province Health Department, Dr. Javad Parizadh, declared here on Tuesday that 90 per cent of the recent AIDS infection pertain to Third World Countries. Speaking to reporters on the occasion of Health Week (April 7-13), he said that the disease has already been controlled in Europe and America through comprehensive programmes.
Islamic Republic News Agency (Iran) (08-04-03 and 09-04-03)	WHO Urges Drive Against Preventable Diseases Killing 5 Million Children	The United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) Monday called for an urgent, concerted worldwide campaign against preventable diseases, infections and accidents that kill five million children each year, said the United Nations Information Centre in press release here on Tuesday.



Islamic Republic News Agency (Iran) 10-04-03	Minister: Health Serves as Main Axis for Development	Minister of Health and Medical Education Masoud Pezeshkian said here on Thursday that health is the axis of development and that the promotion of health in the community requires broad-based assistance.
IslamOnline.net (07-04-03)	Iraq's Children Abandoned on World Health Day	April 7 of each year marks the date on which the World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates World Health Day. This year's theme "Healthy Environments for Children" highlights the fact that each year more than 5 million children aged 0-14 die from diseases and other conditions caused by the environments in which they live, learn, and play (WHO).
ITAR-TASS News Agency (Tokyo) (07-04-03)	Over 1,000 Children in Asia die under five--WHO	More than 1,000 children die under five in Asian countries every year, according to official data circulated in Manila by the regional branch of the World Health Organization (WHO) in connection with the World Health Day that is marked on Monday. Most often, children in Asian countries die of chronic undernourishment, gastrointestinal and acute respiratory diseases, malaria, measles, WHO points out.
Jakarta Post (07-04-03)	Healthy Environments Crucial for Children	Each year on April 7, the world celebrates World Health Day. On this day around the globe, thousands of events mark the importance of health for productive and happy lives. This year, the theme for World Health Day is "Healthy Environments for Children."
Manila Bulletin (editorial) (07-04-03)	World Health Day	The World Health Organization has chosen "Healthy Environments for Children" as its theme for this year's World Health Day to raise awareness of the important factor that environment plays in the health and well-being of children.
The Manila Times (04-04-03)	WHO: Pollution Puts Asian Children at Risk	The World Health Organization warns that serious health dangers loom for Asian children unless greater efforts are made to improve the environments they live in. Indoor pollution and tobacco smoke are two of the factors that cause respiratory disease and death, especially among impoverished Asian children.
The Manila Bulletin Online (07-04-03)	World Health Day	From childhood to old age, good health has been the foundation of living and a guarantee which puts entire communities in a position to deal with any diseases. To commemorate the importance of world health issues, the World Health Organization has designated April 7 of each year as World Health day to raise global awareness of specific annual health theme and to serve as a launch for long-term advocacy programmes for which activities are undertaken and resources provided beyond April 7.
El Medico de Familia	Unir esforços em prol dos homens de amanhã	Preparar o futuro, assegurando ambientes saudáveis para as crianças foi o grande desafio do Dia Mundial da Saúde 2003, celebrado no pasado dia 7 de Abril.



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Medioambiente.gov. ar/noticias (08-04-03)	El Secretario de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable participó de la conmemoración del Día Mundial de la Salud	El Secretario de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación, Ing. Carlos Merenson, participo en la mañana del día 7 de abril de 2003 del acto central conmemorativo del Día Mundial de la Salud 2003).
El Mercantile Valenciano (08-04-03)	El Sindicato Medico rechaza los cupos de primaria de Alzira	El Sindicato Médico ha calificado de "inaceptable" el numero de tarjetas SIP (antiguas cartillas) que la Unión Temporal de Empresas que gestiona la asistencia sanitaria en el área de salud 10 de Alzira, ha asignado a los profesionales sanitarios.
El Mercantile Valenciano (08-04-03)	La tasa de mortalidad infantil desciende a un 3,5 en la Comunidad	El Conseller de Sanidad, Serafin Castellano, aseguró ayer que los niños son " <i>especialmente vulnerables</i> " a los riesgos ambientales y además " <i>tienen una mayor expectativa de vida para desarrollar sus efectos a largo plazo</i> " que deben ser combatidos por más actuaciones específicas.
Mini Diario (de la Comunidad Valencia) (08-04-03)	La Fe organiza un concurso para los niños en el Día Mundial de la Salud	El Conseller de Sanidad, Serafin Castellano, participó ayer en la jornada 'Infancia y Medio Ambiente' enmarcada en el Día Mundial de la Salud, día que la OMS ha dedicado a los 'Ambientes saludables para los niños'.
M2 Presswire (07-04-03)	UN General Assembly President highlights "dire" situation children face from environmental threats in World Health Day message	Following is the message of Jan Kavan (Czech Republic), President of the fifty-seventh Session of the General Assembly, on World Health Day 2003, observed on 7 April:  "Fifty years ago, the United Nations designated April 7 <sup>th</sup> as World Health Day to raise awareness of issues affecting our health and well-being. The commemoration this year is focused on the most vulnerable segment of our society - our children. "Healthy Environments for Children", the theme for World Health Day this year, is indeed a timely reminder of the world community's responsibility towards our future generations."

La Nación (Costa Rica) (08-04-03)	Día de la Salud:	Autoridades recomiendan ambientes saludables para los niños (Página 2): La Salud empieza en casa
La Nation (Djibouti) (03-04-03)	Un environnement sain pour les enfants, préparer l'avenir	Des récompenses seront remises le 07-04-2003 aux lauréats des concours organisés par l'OMS au niveau national et régional. Des journées propres seront également organisées dans les écoles.
New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) (06-04-03)	Making Environments Safer for Children	The theme for tomorrow's World Health Day 2003 is "Healthy Environments for Children". The occasion, particularly in the current times of uncertainty, serves as a reminder that children are most vulnerable to any form of environmental risks including those generated by wars.
EL PAIS (Valencia) (07-04-03)	Un programa analizará la influencia de los agentes tóxicos del medio ambiente en el desarrollo infantil	Los niños expuestos al humo de tabaco tienen más riesgo de desarrollar infecciones respiratorias, padecer tos repetitiva, otitis o fatiga, entre otros problemas de salud. Si el consumo de cigarrillos es durante la gestación se incrementan las posibilidades de tener bebés con poco peso o de partos prematuros.
EL PAIS (Madrid) (08-04-03)	Cinco millones de niños mueren al año por falta de higiene ambiental	Más de cinco millones de niños mueren cada año a causa de enfermedades o infecciones relacionadas con el entorno en que viven. La mayoría de ellas se producen en países en vías de desarrollo. Los problemas respiratorios, la diarrea, y la malaria son las enfermedades que generan la mayor parte de estas muertes entre los menores de 14 años, según un informe presentado ayer por la Organización Mundial de la Salud.
The Pakistan Wire (19-03-03)	World Health Day on April 7	World Health Day will be observed on April 7 to create awareness about health, World Health Organization (WHO) sources told PPI Monday. To observe the day, the sources said a seminar will be held at the Institute of Health which will be largely attended by health experts.
Pak Tribune (Islamabad) (09-04-03)	Every Child Should Grow in a Healthy Atmosphere: Nasir	Minister for Health Nasir Khan on Monday said that every child should grow in a healthy home, school, and community. The health minister said that the children were the future builders of the country and it was a proper time to ensure that they would grow up to be physically healthy, mentally alert and socially stable citizens. Providing better health care and safe environments for our children can only do this, he added.



Philippine Daily Inquirer (04-04-03)	The Right to a Decent Start in Life	Dr Shigeru Omi, the Regional Director for WHO Western Pacific Region, called on everyone to ensure the right of each child to live, grow and learn in a safe and healthy environment and to protect them from factors that cause childhood diseases and death. He also cited the formation of the Healthy Environment for Children Alliance (HECA), which will work towards this goal.
The Philippine Star (08-04-03)	Immunization Targets Measles, Hepa B	In line with this year's World Health Day theme of "Healthy Environments for Children", the World Health Organization will be working towards a more vigorous immunization campaign against measles and Hepatitis B. Measles remains the greatest cause of death among young children, and along with Hepatitis B, can be prevented with proper and timely immunization.
The Philippine Star (07-04-03)	Danger Lurks in the Safest Places for Asian Children	Dr Shigeru Omi, Regional Director for the World Health Organization's Western Pacific Region warned of the dangers facing Asian children in places where they should be most safe, namely their homes and communities. The article cited some of the environment-linked factors that cause death and disease among young children: (i.e. indoor pollution, unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, malnutrition and accidents). It stressed the role that poverty plays in the health and well being of children and called on the government and communities to work together for the goal of a healthy environment for all children.
Press Information Bureau – Government of India (07-04-03)	Clean Environment Right of Children – Sushma Sawarj – World Health Day Observed	Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Smt. Sushma Swaraj has said that to sustain a healthy environment, it was essential that policy planners in government used child psychology as a medium of communication. Initiatives could never succeed, until and unless awareness was created in young minds. In the past, environmental-related health campaigns had succeeded whenever children were associated. Smt. Swaraj stated this at a function to mark the observance of World Health Day today.
Primeiro de Janeiro (06-04-03)	Intoxicações Antígem Alargado numero de crianças em Portugal: Falta cultura de prevenção	O medicamento, o detergente aberto o frasco de perfume ou a planta com umas bolinhas vermelhas mesmo.... Aliás ensinar a criança é igualmente o princípio adoptado pela Organização Mundial de Saúde para o Dia Mundial de Saúde, que se assinala amanhã, e que este ano é dedicado à promoção de ambientes seguros para os mais pequenos.
Las Provincias (Valencia) (08-04-2003)	Los niños, más vulnerables al riesgo ambiental	El Conseller de Sanidad, Serafin Castellano, aseguró ayer que los niños son “especialmente vulnerables” a los riesgos ambientales y “tienen una mayor expectativa de vida para desarrollar sus efectos a largo plazo”, que deben ser combatidos con más actuaciones, Castellano hizo estas declaraciones durante la celebración en La Fe de la jornada <i>Infancia y Medio Ambiente</i> .