Health challenges facing the developing world

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WHAT IS HEALTH?

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19–22 June 1946; signed on 22 July 194
CATEGORIES OF ILL HEALTH

Communicable diseases

Maternal, perinatal conditions & nutritional deficiencies

Non-communicable diseases
  e.g.: – Cardiovascular diseases & malignant neoplasms
        – Injuries
        – Neuropsychiatric disorders
        – Congenital abnormalities.
THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT NEXUS

Environmental hazards/ecosystem degradation are a root cause of a significant health burden:

• The urban environment
• Vector-borne disease
• Indoor air pollution
• Water pollution
• Climate change
• Toxic substances
VECTORS are common INSECTS that carry & transmit diseases causing bacteria, viruses & parasites.

**BITING VECTORS**
- Mosquito
- Tick
- Biting fly
- Flea
- Mite

**CARRIER VECTORS**
- House fly
- Cockroach

Transmit more than 250 food borne diseases leading to:
- Nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea
- Malaise, headache, fever
- Deaths:
  - Globally: 19 Lakhs/year
  - South-East Asia: 10 Lakhs/year
Deaths from vector-borne disease
Deaths attributed to 19 leading factors, by country income level, 2004

- High blood pressure
- Tobacco use
- High blood glucose
- Physical inactivity
- Overweight and obesity
- High cholesterol
- Unsafe sex
- Alcohol use
- Childhood underweight
- Indoor smoke from solid fuels
- Unsafe water, sanitation, hygiene
- Low fruit and vegetable intake
- Suboptimal breastfeeding
- Urban outdoor air pollution
- Occupational risks
- Vitamin A deficiency
- Zinc deficiency
- Unsafe health-care injections
- Iron deficiency

Mortality in thousands (total: 58.8 million)
Major causes of death in children under 5 with disease-specific contribution of undernutrition, 2004

- Pneumonia: 17%
- Diarrhoea: 73%
- Severe neonatal infections: 11%
- Nutritional deficiencies: 2%
- Malaria: 7%
- Measles: 4%
- Other infections: 12%
- Birth asphyxia and trauma: 8%
- Prematurity: 11%
- Non communicable: 7%
- Injuries: 4%

Shaded area indicates contribution of undernutrition to each cause of death.
Palampur: Reference air monitoring station
Thanks....

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