

Healthy Environments for Healthy Children

Sharing experiences

BUHN 9th Knowledge Sharing Seminar

Seminar Topic: Environment and Climate Change in Urban Health

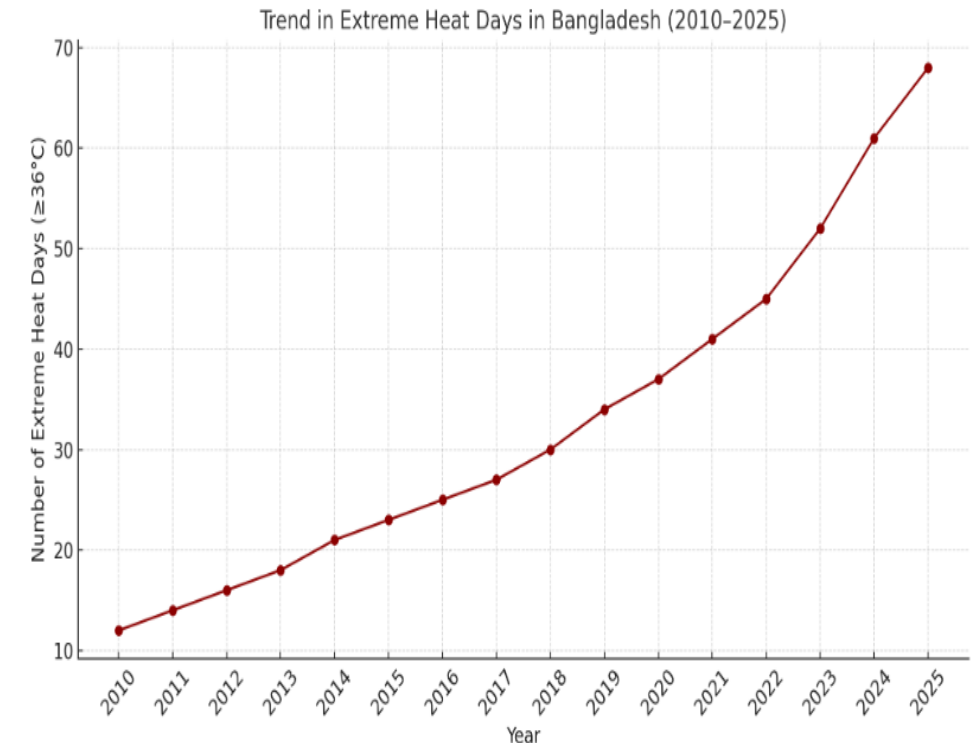
Date: October 12, 2025

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Environmental risks and climate change impacts are increasing in Bangladesh

- Over **35 million children** in Bangladesh have dangerously high levels of **lead** in their blood (IHME 2019)
- Other **heavy metals** - arsenic, mercury, cadmium are also affecting mostly children
 - This is impacting their **health** and reducing their **learning** and **earning potential**.
 - Lead causes a **loss of 20 million IQ points** in children <5y
 - Lead (Pb) exposure due to **lost IQ points cost 8.4 billion USD (3.49% of GDP)** in 2019 in Bangladesh.
- In **2021**, over **19,000 children under five** died due to air pollution-related conditions.
- Air pollution was responsible for over **235,000 deaths in all age groups**
- Increasing trend in **extreme heat days** ($\geq 36^{\circ}\text{C}$) in Bangladesh from 2010 to 2025.
- **Floods, cyclones** in 2024 affected districts like Feni, Noakhali, Cumilla, 1st time in 40



Healthy Environments for Healthy Children

Global programme framework

Pollution and health

Toxic metals,
chemicals, waste,
environmental risks,

Air pollution

Climate adaptation and health

Extreme weather events,
extreme heat, change in
natural systems

Climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities

Solarization of health
care facilities, WASH
in health, waste
management



Examples of key actions taken

Mainly to support Government to strengthen systems to address environmental and climate change issues

Pollution and health

- Heavy Metal Testing as part of Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2025
- National guideline and training materials (Heavy Metal Poisoning, Air Pollution)-2025
- Multisectoral Steering Committee (lead pollution) -2024
- National strategy and action plan for lead free Bangladesh (2025-2035) - draft
- Capacity development, Advocacy, Awareness campaigns (2022-date)

Climate adaptation and Health

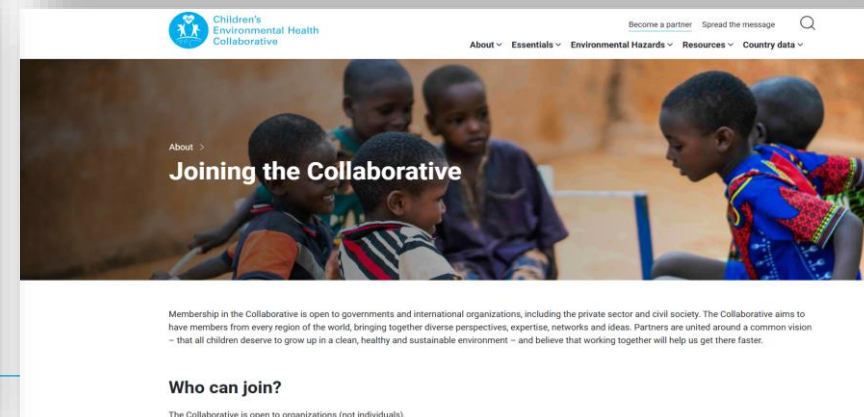
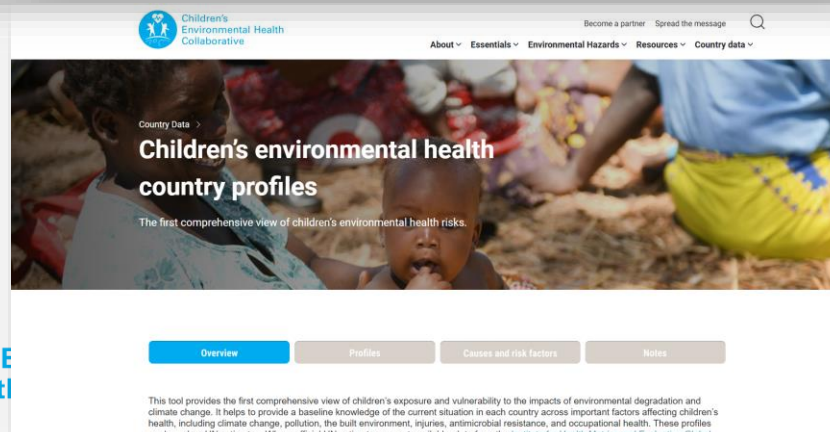
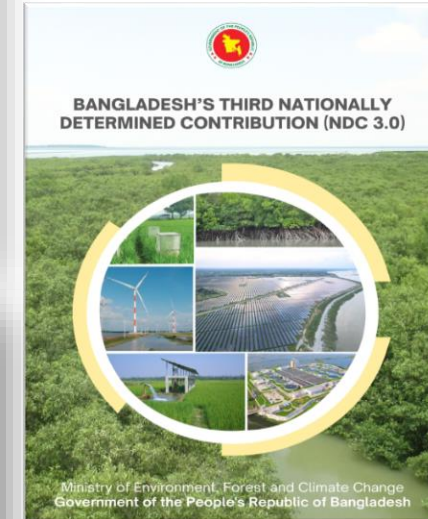
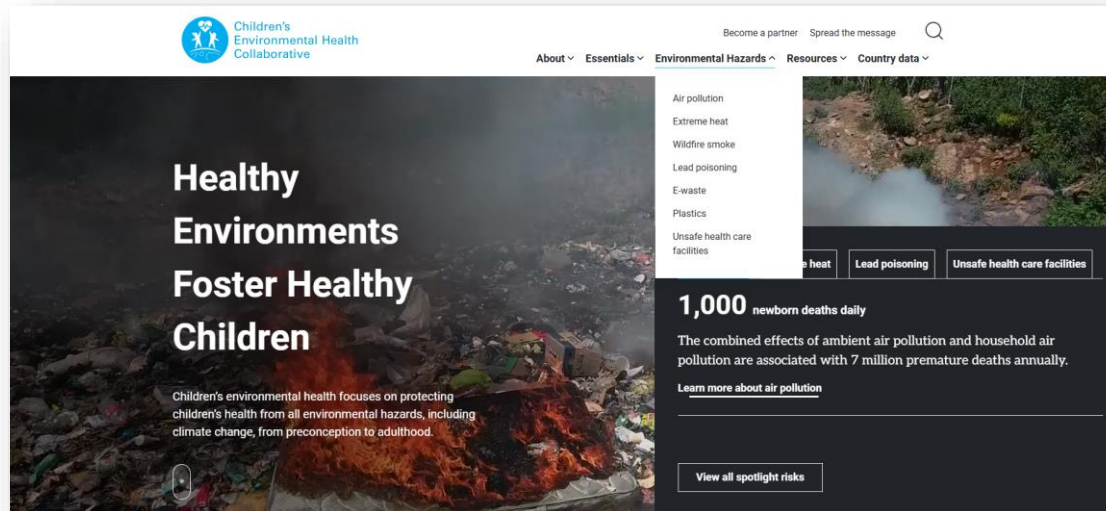
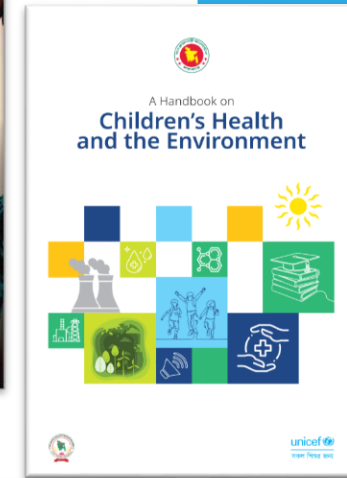
- Technical Advisory Committee (DGHS) on environmental pollution and climate change (2022-date)
- National guideline on heat-related illness (2024)
- Anticipatory Action, Preparedness and Response (ongoing)
- Nationally Determined Contributions - NDC3.0 (2025)

Climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health facilities

- National strategy and implementation framework for WASH in HCF (2025-2030)
- Health facility solarization and electrification - CXB, cold chain equipment (2023-date)

Resources

[Children's Environmental Health Collaborative | Healthy Environments for Healthy Children](#)
[Children's environmental health country profiles | Children's Environmental Health Collaborative](#)
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Thank you



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