DRAFT - not for circulation

WHO presentation to the Joint SBI/SBSTA forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures at COP18

CoP- 18 Doha

Public Health and Environment Department

World Health Organization

Why is WHO working on climate change ?

World Health Organization

Why is WHO working on climate change?

Evidence of health risk

Each year:

- Undernutrition kills 3.5 million
- Poor water & sanitation kills > 2 million
- Indoor air pollution kills > 2 million
- Malaria kills 900,000
- Extreme weather events kill 60,000

WHO estimates that the climate change that has occurred since the 1970s already kills over 140,000 per year.

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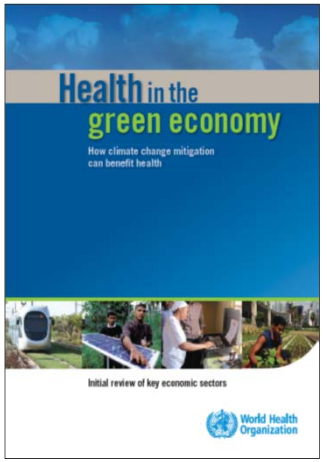
Why is WHO working on climate change?

Evidence of health opportunity

- "Health benefits from reduced air pollution as a result of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions… may offset a substantial fraction of mitigation costs" – IPCC, 2007.
- E.g. Improved stoves and cleaner energy could reduce the 2 million annual deaths from indoor air pollution, and reduce warming effect.
- E.g. Sustainable urban transport – could cut heart disease by 10-25% in developed and developing countries.

.....among many others.....



Why Climate Change negotiators should care about Health ?

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Health is at the heart of the UNFCCC

UNFCCC Article 1: "*Adverse effects of climate change" : changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare.*

UNFCCC ccommitment to consider health effects of mitigation and adaptation to

UNFCCC Article 4.1 (f): *All Parties…shall: …f. Take climate change considerations into account, to the extent feasible, in their relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and employ appropriate methods, for example impact assessments, formulated and determined nationally, with a view to minimizing adverse effects on the economy, on* ***public health*** *and on the quality of the environment, of projects and measures undertaken by them to mitigate or adapt to climate change;*

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Smart development and climate change response measures can reduce pollution/injury and improve health

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Linking health to Green Economy strategies…

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Example 1: 'Green' urban transport can reduce chronic disease, injuries and improve health equity

Transport reliant on private vehicles increases congestion, pollution, and physical inactivity.

Safe walking/cycling and rapid transit networks can reduce injury, cardiovascular disease & support healthy physical activity.

Cycling to work reduced premature mortality by 30% among commuter groups in Shanghai & Copenhagen.

Rapid transit/NMT improves access to schools, jobs & services for poor, children, women, elderly & disabled, improving equity.

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Example 2: Clean household energy for the world's poor is central to improving women's and child health

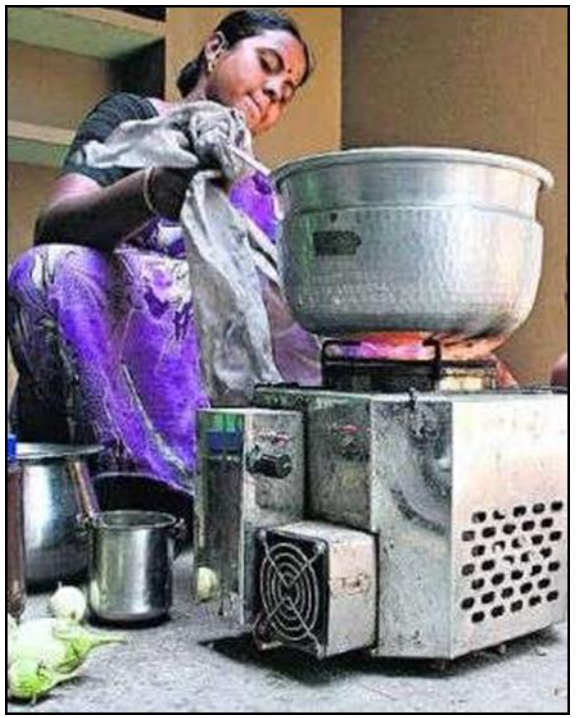
Avert 1 million deaths/yr from COPD & cancers (mostly women);

Halve rates of childhood pneumonia;

Reduce time spent fuel gathering & promote gender equality;

Support UN 'Year of Sustainable Energy' & MDGs;

Reduce deforestation, urban air pollution & climate change emissions of methane/black carbon & CO_2.



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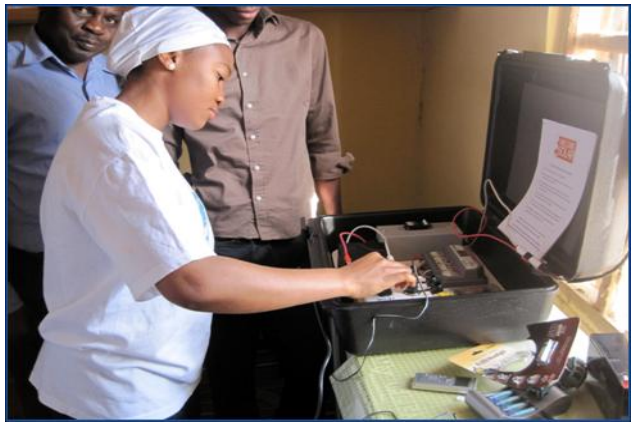
Example 3: 'Greening' health facilities can expand coverage of maternal, child & emergency services

21-59% of health clinics in six African countries had **NO** electricity at all. Women give birth in the dark, by candlelight, by car headlights.

5-12% of clinics surveyed in the same six countries lacked **access to clean water** (from an "improved" protected well or piped source).

Small solar panels generate basic electricity for **lights, cold chain/vaccines, diagnostics, telecommunications, water pumps**.



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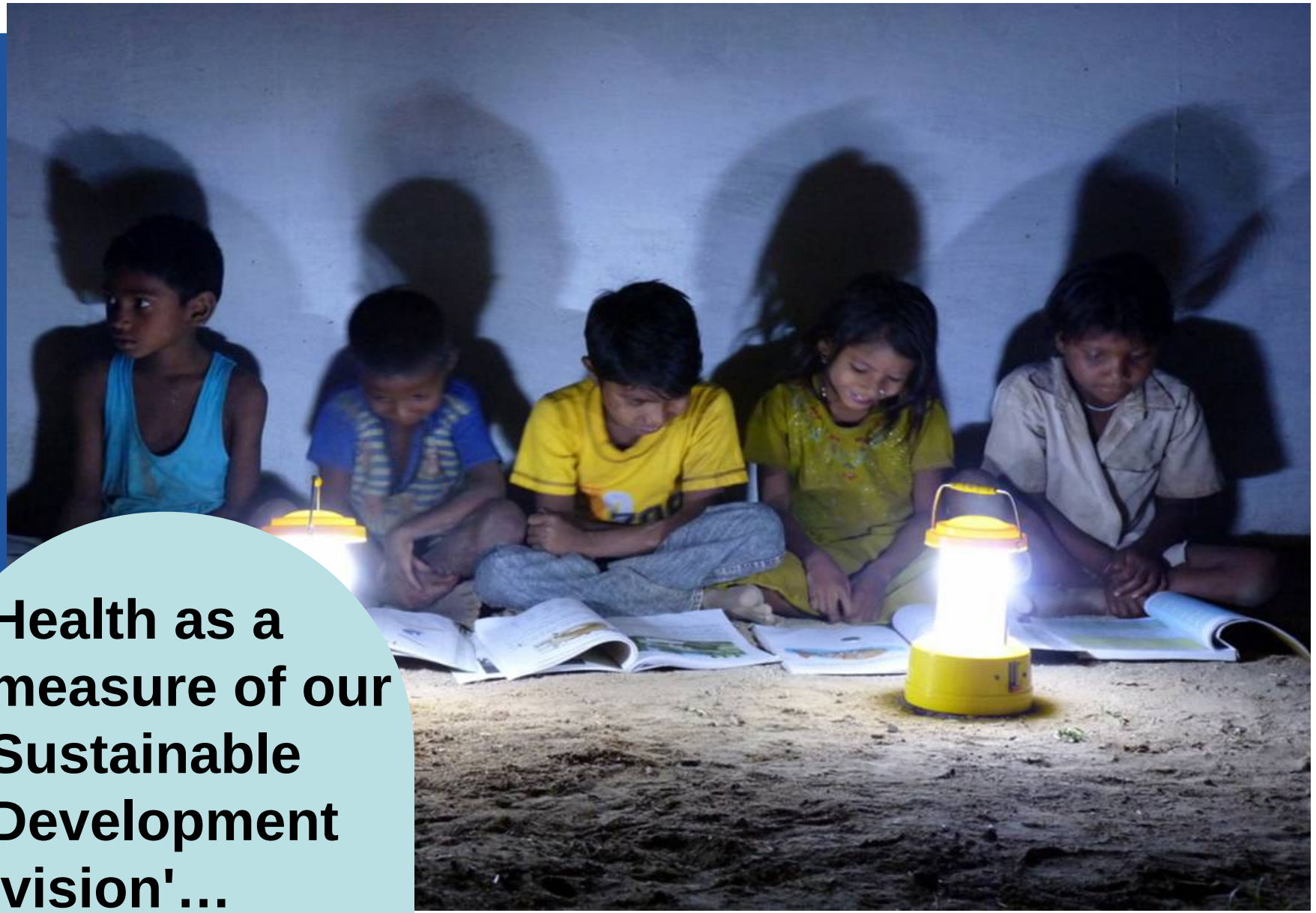

Health as a measure of our Sustainable Development 'vision'…

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The Health Sector can lead with *evidence* and *indicators* of Sustainable Development and Climate actions

- –Evidence on health impacts of green economy strategies/innovations
- –Wider use of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to ensure health as an income of policies
- –Define health-relevant goals, indicators, and tools for measuring/monitoring results

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Connect to policy, and measure progress

Broad policy goals:

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

Targeted initiatives:

CCAC
CLIMATE AND CLEAN AIR COALITION
TO REDUCE SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS

Tracking progress:

RIO+20
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

WHO's key messages for the Forum

Message 1

The impact on human health is among the most significant measures of the harm done by climate change – and health can be a driving force for public engagement in climate solutions.

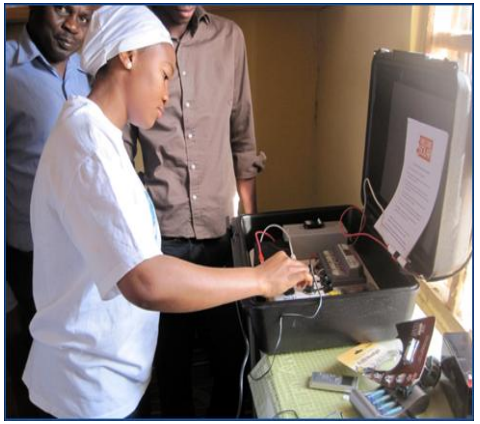
Message 2

Protection and enhancement of health is an essential pillar of sustainable development, and of the response to climate change. A more integrated and intersectoral approach can improve policy coherence and increase efficiency

United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

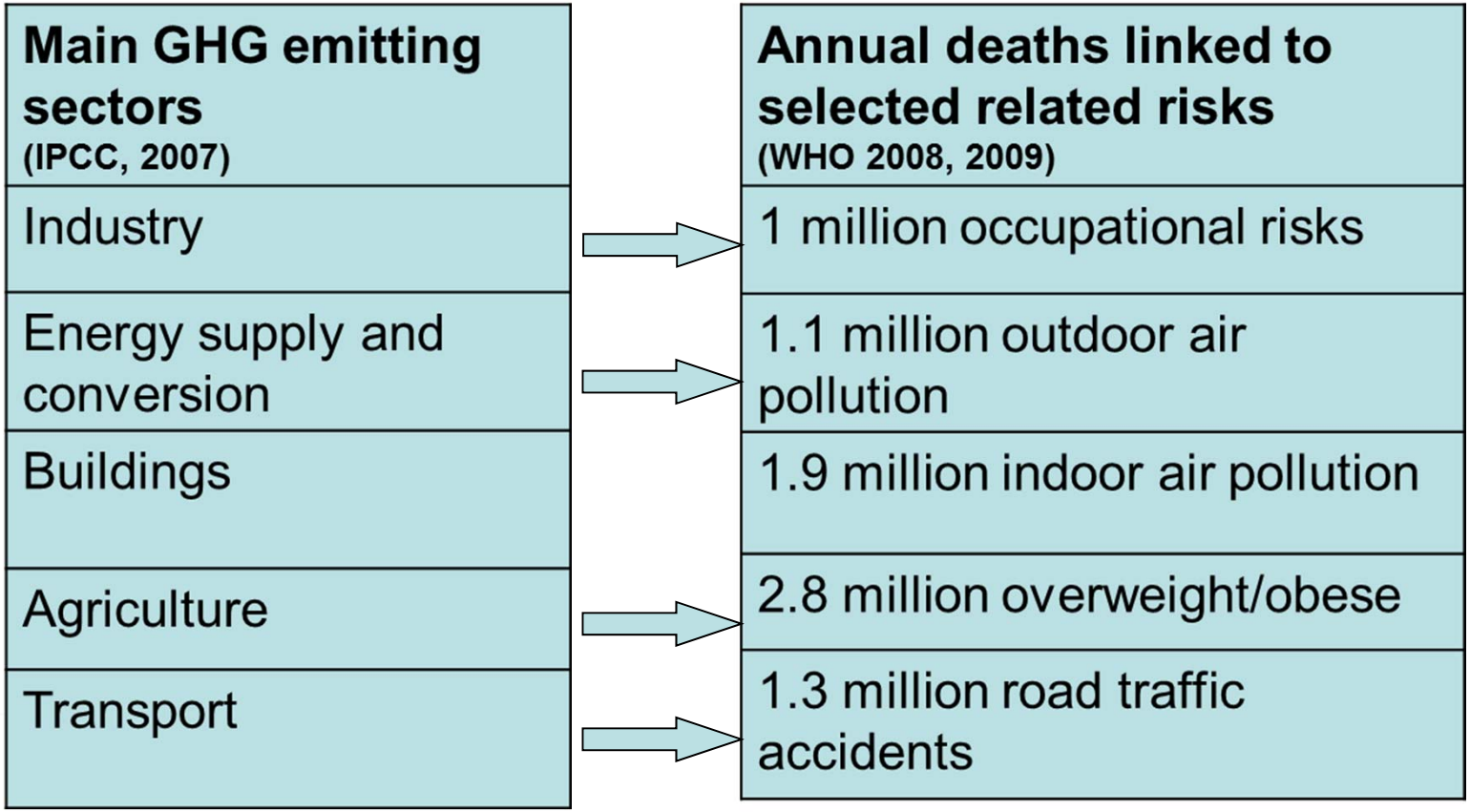
Message 3

Well-designed policies to increase resilience, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, can also greatly enhance health, health equity and gender equality.



Message 4

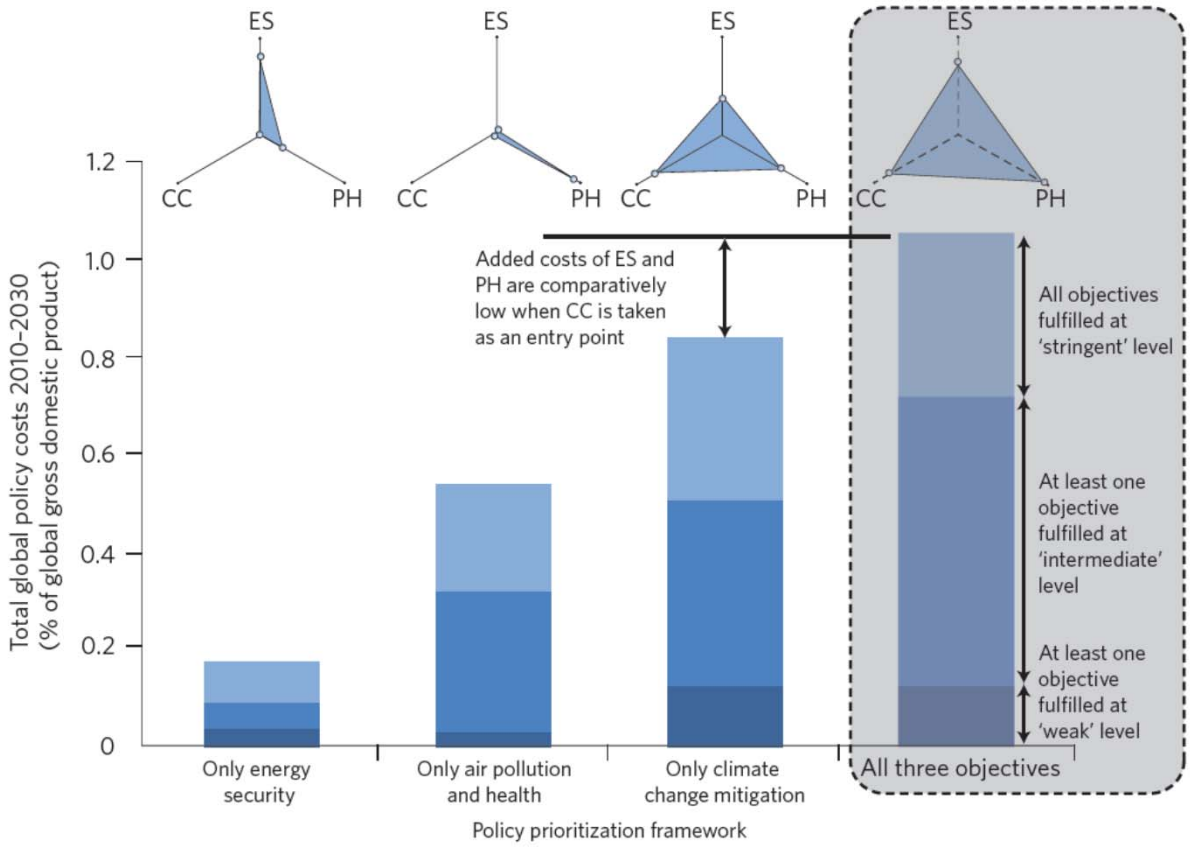
Health progress should be tracked and monitored, including effects from other health-determining sectors



Message 5

Health impacts and co-benefits should be valued in selecting and financing climate change adaptation and mitigation policies.

More economic evidence for coherent climate and health policy



"Health benefits from reduced air pollution as a result of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions… may offset a substantial fraction of mitigation costs" – IPCC, 2007

McCollum et al, Nature Climate Change, October 2011

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Health benefits = Economic benefits

If the EU reduced carbon emissions by 30% by 2020, there will be an associated reduction in healthcare costs of €30.5 billion per year

Represents 2/3 of the costs of implementing a 30% reduction compared to a 20% reduction.

Health and Environmental Alliance. **Acting NOW for better health: A 30% reduction target for EU climate policy**

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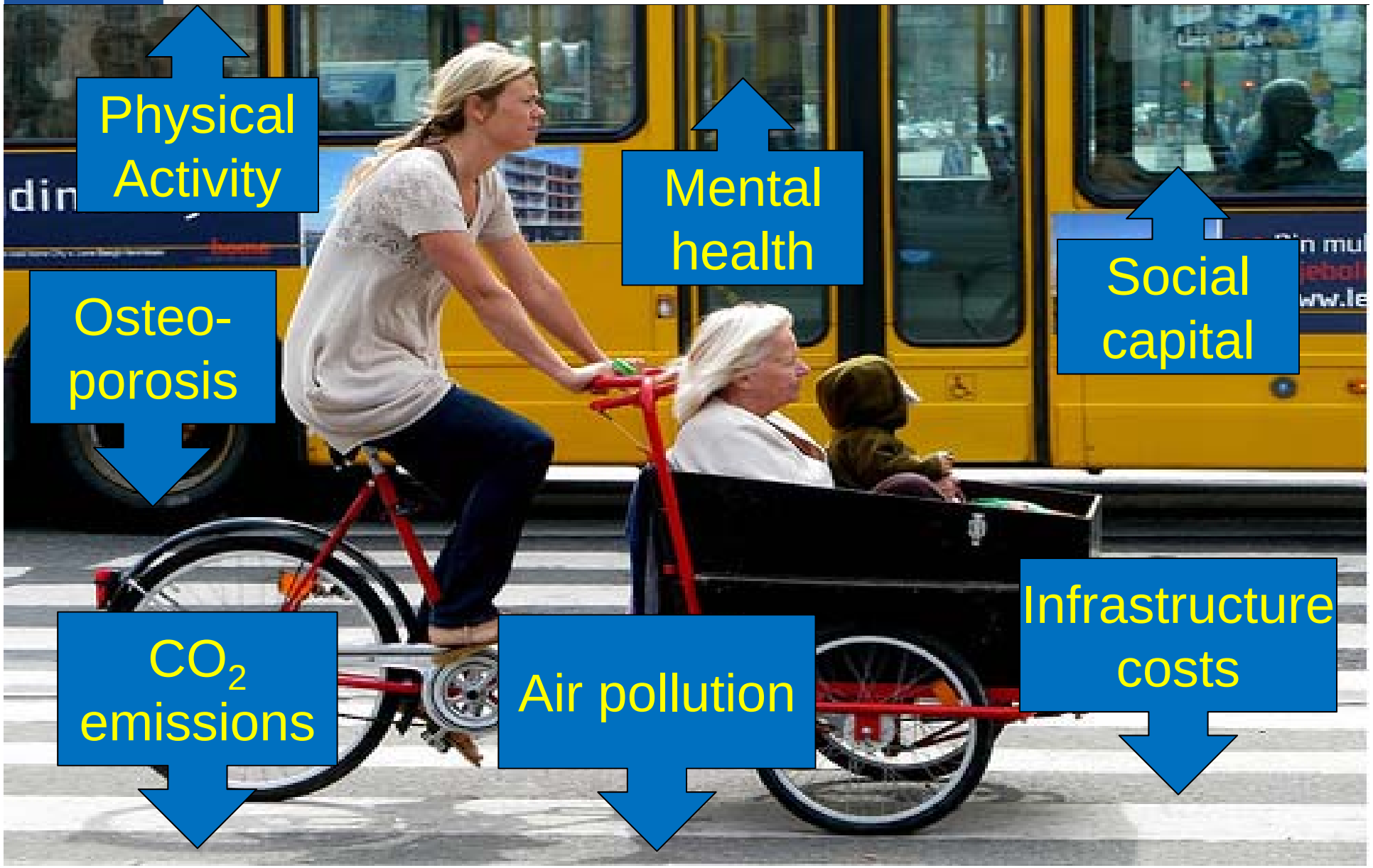
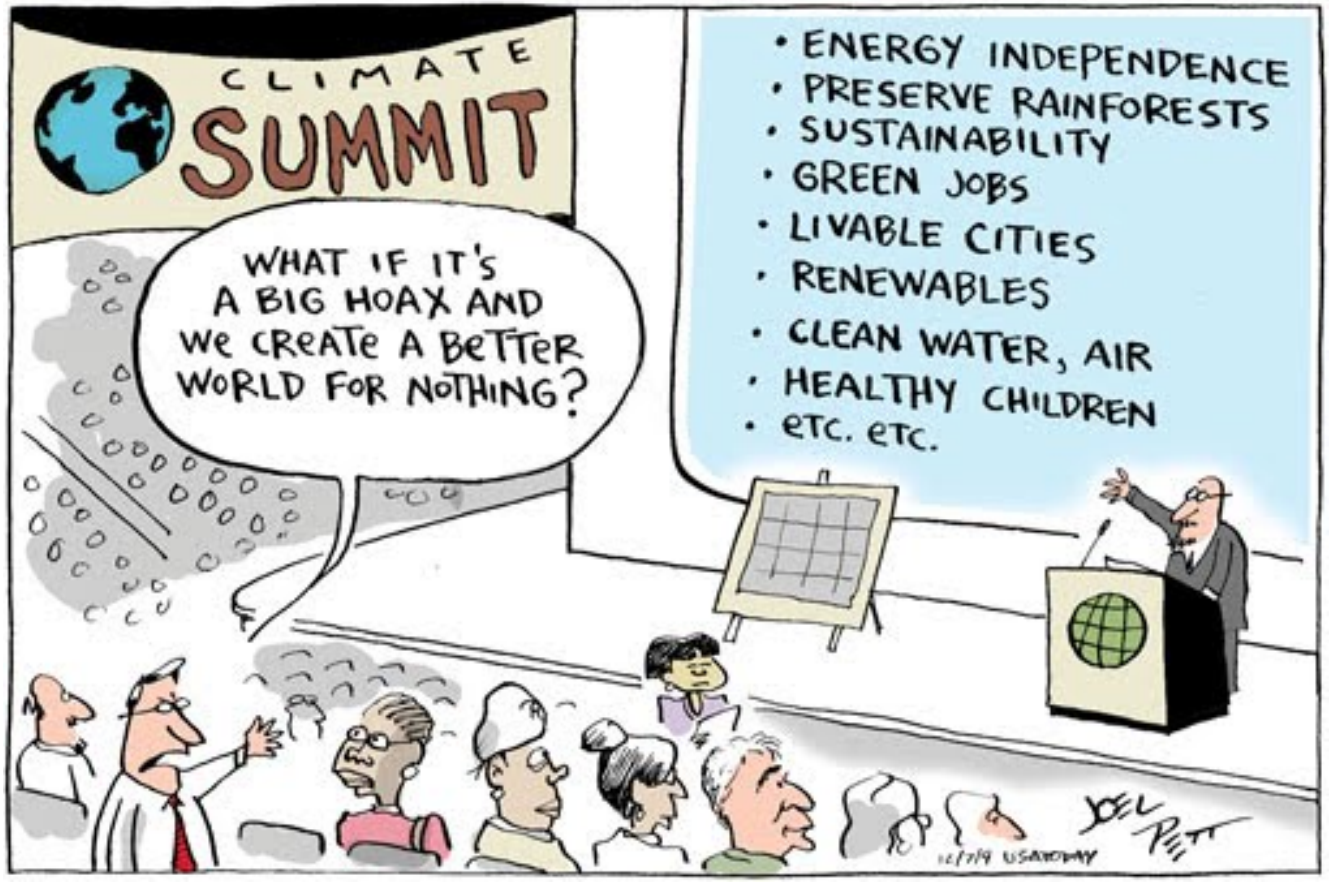
Create a positive vision



Health co-benefits of response measures could increase **"ambition"** and achieve **development** as well as **climate goals**.



More information:

World Health Organization
http://www.who.int/

Public Health and Environment
http://www.who.int/phe/en/

Climate Change
http://www.who.int/globalchange/climate/

Health in other sectors
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