



Environment and Health

This is the Annual Impact Report written for **Environment and Health** Program, written by **AIQasim Abdallah** (MedSIN-Sudan) on the **29th June 2018**, submitted for the **67th IFMSA General Assembly August Meeting 2018**.

Summary of the report

This Report highlights the effort of the Environment and Health Program in the term 2017/2018. The Report includes the impact of IFMSA affiliated activities in the Program to showcase were IFMSA stands. It contains many sections in which we are going to explore the work done so far in Program's topic. This term all the regions have been active in the topic of program which it better than previous term, when all the enrolled Activities came from Asia Pacific and Africa.

Climate Change has been the topic of the most activities followed by Health Sustainability and Green Hospitals. Medical students have been the most common target group, but many activities have targeted the general public as well. There is clear improvement in the expected outcomes of the Program, specially; outcomes 2 and outcome 4. Despite the great improvement in the enrollment rate this term, the gap between enrolled and reported Activities still very large.

Message from the Program Coordinator

Welcome to annual impact report of Environment and Health Program for the term 2017/18, which showcases the impact of National Member Organizations Activities on the topic of the Environment and Health. This Program works to reduce the health impact of environmental issues and to achieve a state of sustainable communities that is not damaging to the natural environment. Medical students as the leaders of change have an important role in addressing the negative impact of human activities on our environment and moving societies forward and therefore, they are the most suitable people to work on this topic.

It has been a truly interesting to see; how many different kind of activities from all the world can impact their communities, the enthusiasm of Activities Coordinators and the great ideas in tackling the society problems. Being working as a Program Coordinator for Environment and Health has given me the chance to meet many dedicated people across the world and we all have one thing in common, the passion for health!

I would like to thank all NMOs and Activities Coordinators for their effort in making the difference. I hope you will enjoy reading the report.

Best,

AIQasim Abdallah

Environment and Health Program Coordinator

Introduction to the Program

The main goal of this program is to address the adverse impact of environment on health through achieving a state of sustainable communities that is not damaging to the natural environment and reduce the health impacts of environmental issues, including, but not limited to, water, sanitation and hygiene, air pollution and climate change.

The **focus areas** that we are working to address with this program are:



- Climate change
- Water sanitation
- Air pollution
- Fossil fuel divestment
- Health sustainability and green hospitals
- Food production and security

Environment and Health Program encourages NMOs activities that address one of the above mentioned focus areas. These kinds of activities are matter because they are actually making the change across communities. They not only improve the environment of people around us but also improve our health through decreasing the negative impact of the environment on health and improve our life toward more sustainable communities.

Annual Working Plan of the Program

This term, there have been many areas addressed by the annual working plan of the Program. In each area there are many goals have been set out to be achieved by the end of this term. The Main aspects of Environment and Health Program are:

- **Impact and quality assurance:** The main goal of IFMSA Programs is to measure the impact of activities delivered within NMOs and IFMSA. Therefore, this aspect have been prioritized and given a big focus this term. The most important goals in this area are to;
 - Ensure effective and smooth communication with Activities Coordinators and NPOs.
 - Increase the number of enrolled Activities: as you will see further in this report, there is a notable progression in the number of the enrolled Activities.
 - Decrease the gap between enrolled and reported Activities: unfortunately, there isn't so much progress on this goal.
 - Ensure the quality of enrolled Activities through; providing them with the needed resources, support them in the implementation of their Activities, conduct regular check-in to find out if there are any problems.
- **Capacity Building:** The goals that have been established to adjust this area:
 - Increase the engagement of IFMSA members in the topic of the Program; by creation of Environment and Health Handout and expanding the material database of the Program.
 - Build capacity of knowledge and skills within the topic of Environmental Health; by engage NMOs to conduct sessions and workshops relevant to Program's topic, delivering sessions at IFMSA meeting.
- **Visibility and Promotion:** During the term, I have aimed to; increase the visibility of the Program through IFMSA platforms by; promoting the enrolled activities in Programs Newsletter; engage the enrolled activities to share their success in MSI 37 and MSI 38; creating the "Activities Booklet" containing the information of enrolled activities of the whole year.
- **External Representaion:** Climate change and Health have been one of the GEFAs for this term. Therefor one of the priorities is to utilize the work done within this issue. Also, there are two aims established for this area:
 - Provide relevant information from Impact Report to LPH and LOWHO and regularly send updated information on the enrolled activities to be used in external meetings.
 - Provide support in the creation of statements presented on behalf of IFMSA at external events.

Impact of the Environment and Health Program

This section describes the impact of the program in the time period June 16th 2017 - June 15th 2018, with reflection on basic activities statistics and other IFMSA activities on the topic. Throughout this period, a total of **11 Activities** have been enrolled in the Environment and Health Program, in wich **one Activity** has reported it's success. In comparing to the previous term (2016/17), there is almost **four more times increase** in the enrolment rate this term, but this still does not accurately represent the activities of NMOs on the topic of the Program (see Discussion and Recommendation section).



1. Basic Activities Statistics

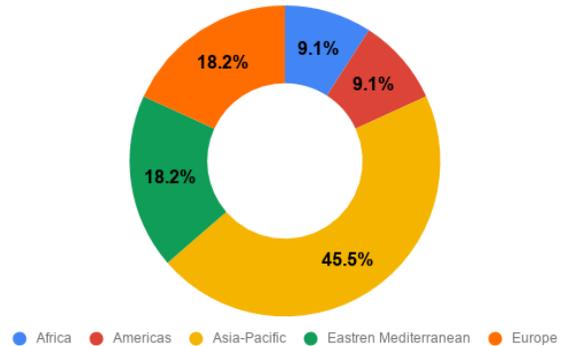
In regards to **regional distribution**, Activities were more regionally distributed than last term, this term **all the regions** have been active in the topic of the Program. Asia-Pacific has the most activities enrolled in the Program; account for 46% of total. Europe and EMR account for 18% per each of all enrolled activities, Americas for 9% and Africa for the same value (see Gr. EH-1. Regional Distribution).

Concerning the **Activity type**, almost 55% of enrolled activities are Campaigns (combination of education and advocacy), while 27% are focus on Education (see Gr. EH-2. Distribution per Activity type).

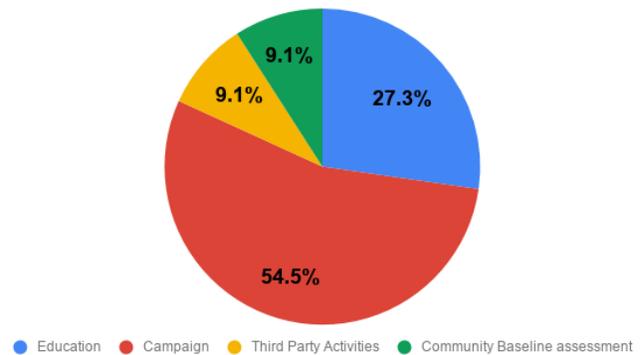
it is heartening to see **four Focus Areas** out of six have been addressed by the enrolled activities comparing to the last term, when 100% of enrolled activities focused on Climate Change. During the term there have been a notable focus from NMOs on the area of Health Sustainability as 27% of enrolled activities have been tackled this area, while Climate Change have been the focus of 37% of the activities. 18% of activities focus on Water Sanitation and 18% focus on Air Pollution (see Gr. EH-3. Distribution according to the Focus Areas).

Out of the 11 Activities enrolled under Environment and Health Program, there are 6 local activities, 5 national activities and 1 international activity. NB: there is one activity run as both national and international activity.

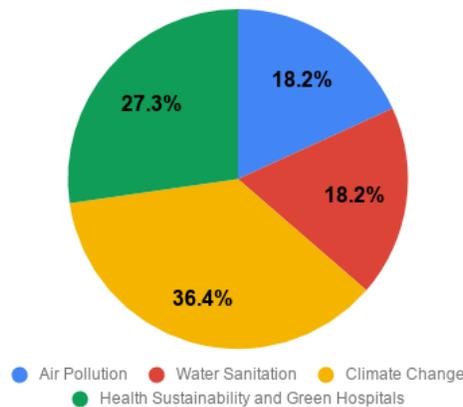
Gr. EH-1. Regional Distribution



GR. EH-2. Distribution per Activity type



GR. EH-3. Distribution according to the Focus Areas



2. Program Impact

The analysis of Environment and Health Program impact is based on Program's outcomes and it's success indicators. This section present the outcomes of this analysis. The data of the impact analysis is merely based on the enrolled Activities since there is only one Activity has reported it's impact so far.

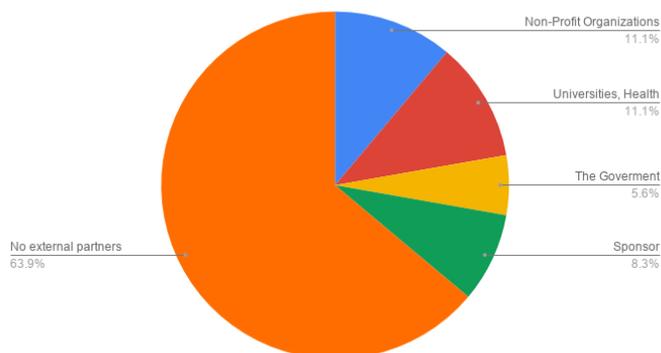
Outcome 1: International trainings for medical students considering the health effects of existing and future environmental issues	
<i>Indicator 1.1. Number of international workshops organized per year</i>	0
<i>Indicator 1.2. Number of participants trained</i>	N/A
Outcome 2: National and local Activities for medical students on environment and health	
<i>Indicator 2.1. Number of national and local Activities per year</i>	11
<i>Indicator 2.2. Number of NMOs holding trainings</i>	1
<i>Indicator 2.3. Number of participants who have attended trainings</i>	40
Outcome 3: Medical student engagement in international environmental politics	
<i>Indicator 3.1. Number of medical students attending meetings with policy makers</i>	8
<i>Indicator 3.2. Number of formal documents submitted to policy makers on the topic of the environment and health</i>	2
Outcome 4: Medical student engagement in local and national in the field of environment and health	
<i>Indicator 4.1. Number of target individuals reached by national and local activities enrolled in the Program</i>	~19700
<i>Indicator 4.2. Number of NMOs active in EH topic</i>	9
Outcome 5: Individuals and organisations switch to fossil free investments	
<i>Indicator 5.1. Number of organizations and individuals who have fossil free portfolios</i>	1
Outcome 6: University education in environment and health	
<i>Indicator 6.1. Number of medical schools that include environment and health in the curriculum</i>	1

It must be noted that, however, we still assume that a lot of Activities go unreported, and we do not know the total number of people reached in this topic by Activities of all NMOs.

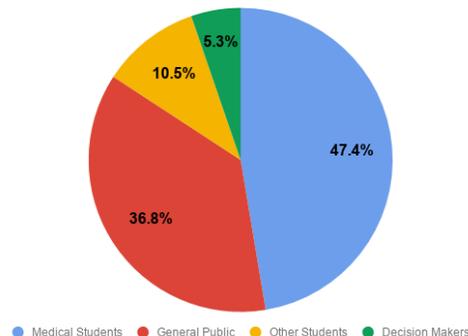
The main target group for most activities involved in the program is the medical students as most of the activities focus on the educational aspect. However, some activities do target the general public, as well as decision makers (see Gr. EH-4. Target groups and beneficiaries of the Activities). 36% of Activities have been collaborated with external partners, mainly through non-profit organizations and health faculties (see Gr. EH-5. External partners of the Activities).



Gr. EH-5. External partners of Activities



Gr. EH-4. Target groups and beneficiaries of Activities



3. Other IFMSA work on the topic

- **Policy Documents:** The IFMSA has a Policy Statement on Climate Change and Health, which was adopted during the 65th March Meeting General Assembly 2016 in St. Paul's Bay, Malta. It was used in a variety of external representation meetings this term, for example at the Climate Change Conference COP23. The policy will be renewed and proposed for AM18. The other relevant policy statement is Environmentally Sustainable healthcare Facilities (adopted in AM15, Macedonia).
- **Sessions:**
 - During the August Meeting 2017, a Program Session on the Environment and Health Program was conducted. It highlighted the different ways in which the environment affects our health, with main focus on climate change. The session received by **10 participants**.
 - At the the March Meeting 2018, a session of two hours was conducted under the theme of the impact of environment on communicable diseases and other STIs. The session attended by **22 prticipants**.
 - The Sustainability - Climate Change and Health was the **theme for EuRegMe in Austria** as it is one the focus areas of the European region.
- **IFMSA Recommendations for sustainable and Climate-friendly Meetings:** This document is a result of effort of a group of IFMSA volunteers who decided to set one of the first steps to a greener and more sustainable IFMSA. It is a combination of evidence-based resources and experience advice from several inspiring organizing committees in form of recommendations and tools to run green meetings and activities.

Discussion and recommendations

Overall, it has been a productive term for the Program and there is a notable improvement in the impact of the Program compared to the previous year, almost due to an increased number of enrolled Activities. Despite the large number of activities that have been identified this year, many of these activities are not enrolled or reported to the Program; therefore, this analysis does not reflect the real impact of the Program, as the actual number of Activates is estimated to be much higher.

Based on the results of impact assessment, NMOs have worked on all 6 expected outcomes of the Program except outcome 1 which is lifted untargeted by NMOs. There is clear improvement in the Program's outcomes 2 and great potential for outcome 4. Further, the impact is also more globally representative than previous term, when all the enrolled Activities came from Asia Pacific and Africa. This term all five regions of IFMSA are working on the Program and it is important to keep working with the Regional assistants to make sure that more of the activities already done or planed are enrolled in our Program.



Comparing to the previous annual report, there is an increased in the number of NMOs active in the topic of the Program by **almost three more times** than last term. Also, the number of national and local Activities has been increased **four more times** than previous term enrollment which means the visibility of the Program has been increased too. The most common area that Activities targeted was Climate Change and Health followed by Health Sustainability and Green Hospitals. Apart from that, more target individuals were reached, an estimated number of **19.700 target individuals** have been reached, as well as several politicians and decision makers, who have been targeted both by the IFMSA delegations to external meetings, as well as by NMOs.

However, although there is an improvement in the rate of enrollment this term and even with all of the tireless effort made by the Programs Team through launching the Activities Database and promoting many versions of Programs Newsletter, it is happened that some Activity Coordinators are not aware of the Program's existence and do not enroll their activities. Therefore, it is important that these efforts continue so that the purpose of enrollment is clear and process made simple.

Moreover, there is a definitive need to reform and update the Environment and Health Program proposal, specifically; the outcomes and the success indicators to better assess the actual activities conducted by NMOs. It is clear that the Program have a very broad proposal that needs to be adjusted. During the writing of this report, I have struggled with the Outcomes of the program and it has become clear that they are lacking the accurate frame that can monitor the impact of the Program properly.

Here are some recommendations for the next Program Coordinator:

- Seek out new Activates from the beginning of term and contact NPOs on regular basis to see if they have any relevant Activities running and actively enroll them.
- Develop a proper way to follow up and encourage Activities Coordinators to fill out the report form to make sure the impact assessment will be more accurate.
- Reform and update the EH Program proposal, with special focus on redefining the outcomes and success indicators, to be voted on at the March Meeting 2019.
- Update the reporting form in order to collect the needed information related to success indicators of the Program.
- Work further on improving the visibility of the Program to reach out more IFMSA members.