• Due to the complex nature of the issue, disease burden information is very limited.

• In 2012, at least 1.3 m deaths were attributable to a small number of chemicals where there are data.

• In 2016, that number had risen to 1.6 m, again only for a small number of chemicals.

• People are exposed to many more chemicals in their daily lives.

Human exposure to chemicals throughout their life cycle and selected programmes relevant to their prevention

Legend:
- **Chemicals**
- **Exposure**
- **Policies and programmes**
- **Processes**
- **Environmental exposure**
- **Occupational exposure**

Resolution WHA 69.4 (2016) requests WHO Secretariat to:

Develop, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a road map outlining concrete actions to enhance health sector engagement towards meeting the 2020 goal and contributing to relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
Approved by the 70th World Health Assembly in May 2017.

- Designed to be applicable to and used by Member States at all stages of development, as well as a broad range of stakeholders.

- Concrete actions where the health sector has a lead or important supporting role, recognizing the need for multi-sectoral cooperation.

- Organized into four areas: risk reduction; knowledge and evidence; institutional capacity; and leadership and coordination.
Key structure of the road map

- One page per action area
- Each action has a suggested lead health sector actor:
  - MS
  - ALL
  - WHO Sec

Outcome:
Improved health, in both the short and the long term and for future generations through the reduction of risks to health from exposure to chemicals throughout their life cycle, including as waste, resulting from integrated health protection activities by the health sector at the national, regional and international level, as well as from greater interest and awareness within the health sector and in the general community.
How can we use the road map

Some key uses identified so far by countries include

- Undertaking gap analyses, developing action plans and feeding into national chemicals planning processes
- Identifying areas for health sector leadership and collaboration with other sectors
- Advocating action from decision-makers, including gaining political support for chemicals management and obtaining funding for activities
- Communicating the health sector role in chemicals management with other sectors, as well within the health sector
Introducing the road map workbook

- Designed to assist use of the road map to identify priorities and to plan activities around these priorities
- Tested at a WHO meeting in October 2017 to capture input from countries
- Electronic version of the workbook is available at: www.who.int/ipcs in 6 UN languages
The Workbook – an overview

Four steps lead you through a sequence for developing implementation plans

The output is a high level implementation plan that can be used to:

- communicate with decision-makers and colleagues, both internally and externally
- feed into broader organization-wide, national, regional, international and/or intersectoral planning processes
The Road Map calls for the establishment of a Global Chemicals and Health Network

LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

Actions to promote the inclusion of health considerations in all chemicals policies, engagement of the health sector in chemicals management activities at the national, regional and international levels, and engagement of the health sector with other sectors.

HEALTH SECTOR ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

Nominate a health ministry contact point for issues related to chemicals and health including implementation of this road map, and establish a national chemicals and health network.

Establish a global chemicals and health network, with links to existing subregional, regional and international networks, to facilitate health sector implementation of this road map (including participation in the Strategic Approach¹).
Establishment of the Network

Main steps

August 2017, Member States invited to nominate a contact, commencement of communications about issues and events in international chemicals management

February to May 2018, consultation on draft paper on functioning of the Network

October 2018 meeting involving a number of Network member countries, to test the draft Chemicals Road Map Workbook

Inaugural Meeting of Global Chemicals and Health Network, 6-8 November 2018
Network Overview

Goal

is to facilitate implementation of the road map by promoting collaboration on common policy challenges, perspectives and priorities of health ministries in managing chemicals, especially in light of the intersessional process on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (the intersessional process), and to facilitate continuity of contact among health ministries and with WHO.
Objectives

• Provide a forum to discuss implementation of the road map, including what different countries are doing and how, as well as challenges and success stories;

• Improve awareness of the health impacts of chemicals and the health sector role in chemicals management at national, regional and global levels;

• Identify common issues for discussion and collaboration;

• Foster greater inclusion of health sector perspectives in international chemicals discussions; and

• Provide a platform/venue for mutual support among Member States, for example, through sharing information and best-practices as well as funding opportunities.
Countries developed posters to share information about their activities to implement the road map, and areas where they would like to collaborate with others.

An online platform is being developed for further sharing of plans and other materials.
Poster session: country activities to implement the road map