

Encouraging collaborative efforts between environment and health sector to arrest climate deterioration

Sir,

The desire and necessity to live in a clean environment has become an important determinant for a healthy living and global development.^[1] It is predominantly due to the millions of deaths attributed to environmental hazards and climate alterations.^[1,2] In fact, the recently available estimates indicate that 25% of global deaths occur because of the environment-related causes.^[2,3] At the same time, millions of disability-adjusted life years have also been lost due to the morbidities and premature deaths.^[2] It is vital to acknowledge that failure to protect the population from environmental risks not only accounts for lives but also even puts a massive burden on the health-care delivery system.^[1,3]

Moreover, it would not be wrong to say that people living in low-resource settings have been exposed to the greatest burden of the environment-origin diseases.^[3] The air that we breathe has been one of the basic needs for survival; nevertheless, air pollution accounts for more than 6 million deaths each year from a wide range of morbidities.^[2] The demographic projection suggests that by the middle of the 21st century, two-third of the world's population will be residing in urban areas, which are extensively exposed to the threats of pollution, traffic, substandard housing, and multiple other health risks.^[2,3]

Owing to the complicated nature of the risks posed to health, it is very difficult to address the problem with the support of a single stakeholder.^[2] In fact, environment-related many goals and targets have been incorporated in the recently adopted sustainable development goals and the accomplishment of the targets essentially depends on the collaboration and long-term efforts of the sectors involved.^[2,3] However, realizing the absence of any mechanism to facilitate the collective working of environment and health sector on the global scale, the government of Morocco has adopted the Marrakech Declaration.^[2] This declaration calls for all the appropriate United Nations agencies to collaborate together and develop a

mechanism to promote collaborative actions between multiple sectors.^[2] Subsequently, some of the national governments have taken measures to establish a linkage between environment, climate, and health sectors to expedite implementation of joint strategies.^[2]

To conclude, there is a great need for different sectors to develop collaborative action plans and implement the same to ensure halt of environment deterioration and enhance the output of specific measures for longer periods.

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Conflicts of interest

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