

# Continental challenges and change

## 1. Advocacy

The SANA reports show that advocacy is needed to positively influence both policy makers and the public.

### Policy makers

Impacting parliamentarians, local government authorities, (education) ministries and the private sector will require...



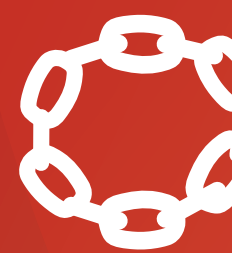
#### Funding

National advocacy is needed to increase, integrate and rationalise funding for environment and health.



#### Policies

Currently, no country in Africa has an integrated health and environment policy, which is essential.



#### Integration

Joint advocacy is required to establish a national collaborative framework integrating environment and health.



#### Implementation

Policy makers need to be supported in implementing international conventions.



### Public

Audience-specific information for key groups, such as youth, women, urban communities, will impact society through...



#### Raising awareness

The public needs to be made aware of the services ecosystems provide to human health and the importance of international conventions.



#### Education

More programmes should be developed to educate the public, such as *Green school*, *Clean school* in Guinea.



#### Risk reduction

Public advocacy is needed to help prevent environment-related disease. For example, South Africa's National Environmental Health Policy is under development to promote preventative behaviour.

## 2. Policy

In order to ensure sustainable development, health and environment policies must be integrated. This includes **breaking down silos** and implementing **new structures and processes**.

### What is pushing health and environment apart?

State bodies work within sectoral mandates.

Integrated or collaborative policies are scarce.

A political paradigm shift is required that bridges sectoral divides.

Where Multilateral Environmental Agreements are signed or ratified they are often not implemented.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and other poverty alleviation structures do not factor in linkage for environment and health.

### Health policies

Currently, environment-related health is only a peripheral issue in many countries' health policies. Health factors due to climate change are also poorly covered.

### Environmental policies

In too many countries, environmental policy and programming still occurs in a context that is separate from health.



World Health Organization

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