

Be-cause health

Planetary Health (name)

Working Group

ToR

10/02/2022

“Don’t sit back and read and think and wait for to have achieved the perfect theory to develop the perfect strategy for action: Get out there. Interfere. Talk to people. Try like all heck to change bits and bobs of the systems that surround you. As you’ll try, you’ll learn, and as you’ll learn, your chances of success will expand extraordinarily”.

Julia Steinberger (Retrieved by: <https://jksteinberger.medium.com/individuals-and-social-pressure-how-to-change-the-world-8304ada3bbca>)

Purpose

This Working Group (WG) of the Be-cause health (BCH) platform emerges from the lessons learnt of the “Climate Justice and Health Equity Conference” held in 2021, one of the first events in Belgium to call a diversity of actors for sharing experiences and building knowledge on the topic.

Due to the complexity and relevance of the climate crisis and environmental degradation impact on health at global and local levels, transdisciplinary networks are a fruitful mechanism for understanding and tackling the multiple effects of such web of phenomena.

The environmental-health nexus emerged quite recently in the global health field, in the policy landscape, on media and among civil society organizations and movements. Therefore, we acknowledge an urgent need for developing a common language, shared vision, and experimenting and scaling concrete solutions among academia, health actors, policy decision-makers, humanitarian and development NGOs, as well as individual engaged citizens without discrimination.

The ultimate goal of the WG is contributing to climate justice and health equity. In line with Be-cause health principles of social protection and equitable access to good quality responsive health services for all, and strong, resilient and sustainable health systems, this WG aims to create a space for technical exchange and to facilitate jointed initiatives.

In terms of ambitions, this WG wish to be positioned as the central Belgian climate and health network, promoting meaningful participation of diverse range of actors from Low and Middle Income Countries and underrepresented and marginalized voices.

Topics / sub-topics

Due to the complexity of the links between climate crisis and health and the transdisciplinary nature of an emerging field of knowledge that made boundaries between concepts quite blurred, it is not possible to define an exhaustive list of topics to be covered. Instead, we propose a cloud tag of main

topics on the table of this WG. More details on topics and their interrelations and relevance for this WG will appear in the papers or guidelines that the WG will produce.



Principles

In addition to Human Rights and professionalism, the WG highlights or remind few key values that actively drive the WG. This does not substitute the ethical chart or commitment of BCH. Considering that those values cannot be treated as a checklist, but they call for respect and implementation and they are processes, this WG is engaged in promoting:

- Inclusion (to be defined)
- Transparency (to be defined)
- Decoloniality (to be defined)

Objectives and actions

Type of action	Objective	Actions (this is an example of actions to be translated in a feasible action plan each year), not exhaustive nor exclusive
Sharing	Research, policy, and action updates	Establish collaborations for research
	Bridge the gap between academia and actors on the field	Evidence generation
	Capitalized shared resources (articles, reports, links, etc.) in a shared online space	Mapping
	Mapping actors and initiatives	Create a repository

Learning	Framing the environmental-health nexus going beyond the biomedical approach	Capacity building and trainings for younger researchers
	Defining One Health and Planetary Health approaches as unifying narratives, from a system thinking perspective	Organize thematic webinars / seminars
	Learning opportunities on sustainable or restorative economic models (i.e. the donut model)	
	Learning about localized, bottom-up, and small-scale solutions (both successful and failed initiatives)	
	Learning from field voices from unheard populations	
	Learning from social movements, especially youth movements	
	Learning about how to speak about CC	
	Learn about links between climate justice and health equity	
Influence	Global research agenda	Creating communication channels
	Reinforcing skills and actions tackling climate crisis among Belgian NGOs and other actors for a comprehensive and coordinated response	Drafting guidelines
	Post pandemic policies	Publishing policy papers
	COP27	Create awareness activities
	Social media	
Coordination	Becoming the platform of reference in Belgium on the environmental-health nexus	Common application for conferences

Membership and roles

Membership follows the same rules of the BCH framework.

Participating in the WG does not imply a formal membership of the Belgian network of BCH, however membership is encouraged and engagement in the WG/ network is a condition. Members of the working group endorse the mission and vision of BCH: <https://www.be-causehealth.be/en/about-us/vision-mission/>.

In addition, the WG, in a second phase after its constitution, will design a communication strategy for aggregating other actors and inviting new members. Because external communication is implied, the strategy will be submitted to the BCH steering committee and general assembly.

Participants should decide every 2 years the roles defined in the BCH framework, namely: coordinator, vice-coordinator, and secretary.

In order to ensure inclusive participation, this WG will provide best effort to provide reasonable accommodation case by case.

In the sake of feasibility, this WG facilitate links with other networks via its members (and not via the formal participation of BCH in those external networks). The WG members are available for bridging information, when relevant and without disclosing sensitive issues, from one network to another in an informal and effective way.

Functioning

Functioning is intended to be as flexible as possible.

For ensuring minimum coordination, each 3 months meeting will be organized on regular basis. More meetings for ad hoc tasks could be organized on demand and according to the annual action plan.

This group is open-ended and its continuity will be decided every year.

The working language is English, with translation to French and Dutch provided for special events or documents.

The WG could open sub-working groups or voluntarily taskforces for special events or drafting documents, etc. at any moment to be more effective toward a specific task avoiding siloing knowledge or practices by topic or theme.

Participants will engage also in sharing relevant information for mutual learning, according to the communication channel the WG prefers (internal mailing list or other).