



# Environmental Pollution and Human Health Impact in sub-Saharan Africa

**Tesfaye B. Mersha, PhD**

Cincinnati Children's Hospital, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

**E. Sahle-Demessie, PhD**

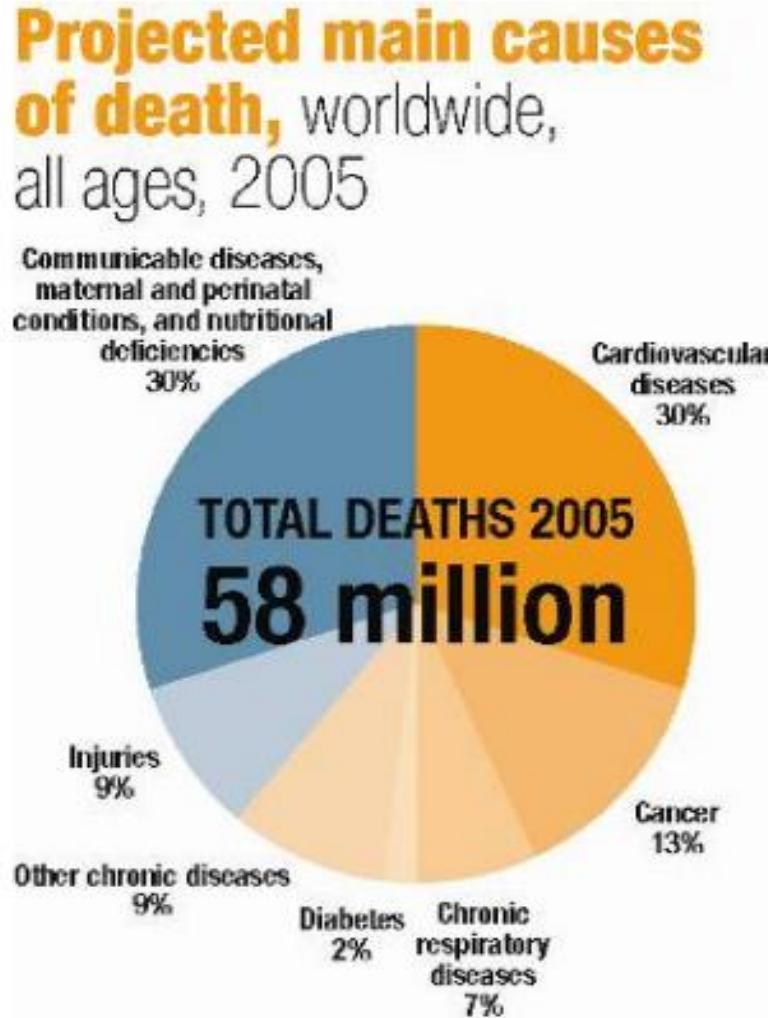
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development,  
Center for Environmental Solution and Emergency Response Cincinnati, OH

**Feleke Zewge, PhD**

Environmental Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science  
Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



# Developing countries and emerging economies Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) and diseases of poverty



**2 in 3 death are from NCDs – 80% of burden is in low-and middle-income countries**

- Cardiovascular disease-heart stroke,
- Chronic respiratory diseases
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Injuries

**Diseases of poverty:**

- TB
- malaria
- **COVID-19**

# HOW THE ENVIRONMENT IMPACTS OUR HEALTH

**AIR POLLUTION**  
including indoors and outdoors



**INADEQUATE / UNSAFE WATER**  
Sanitation and Hygiene



**CHEMICALS**  
and biological agents



**RADIATION**  
ultraviolet and ionizing

**COMMUNITY NOISE**

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**BUILT ENVIRONMENTS**  
including housing and roads



**AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES**  
including pesticide-use, water-waste



**OCCUPATIONAL RISKS**



World Health Organization

#EnvironmentalHealth

Source: <https://www.neha.org/about-neha/definitions-environmental-health>

# Climate change and health impacts- greater in Africa

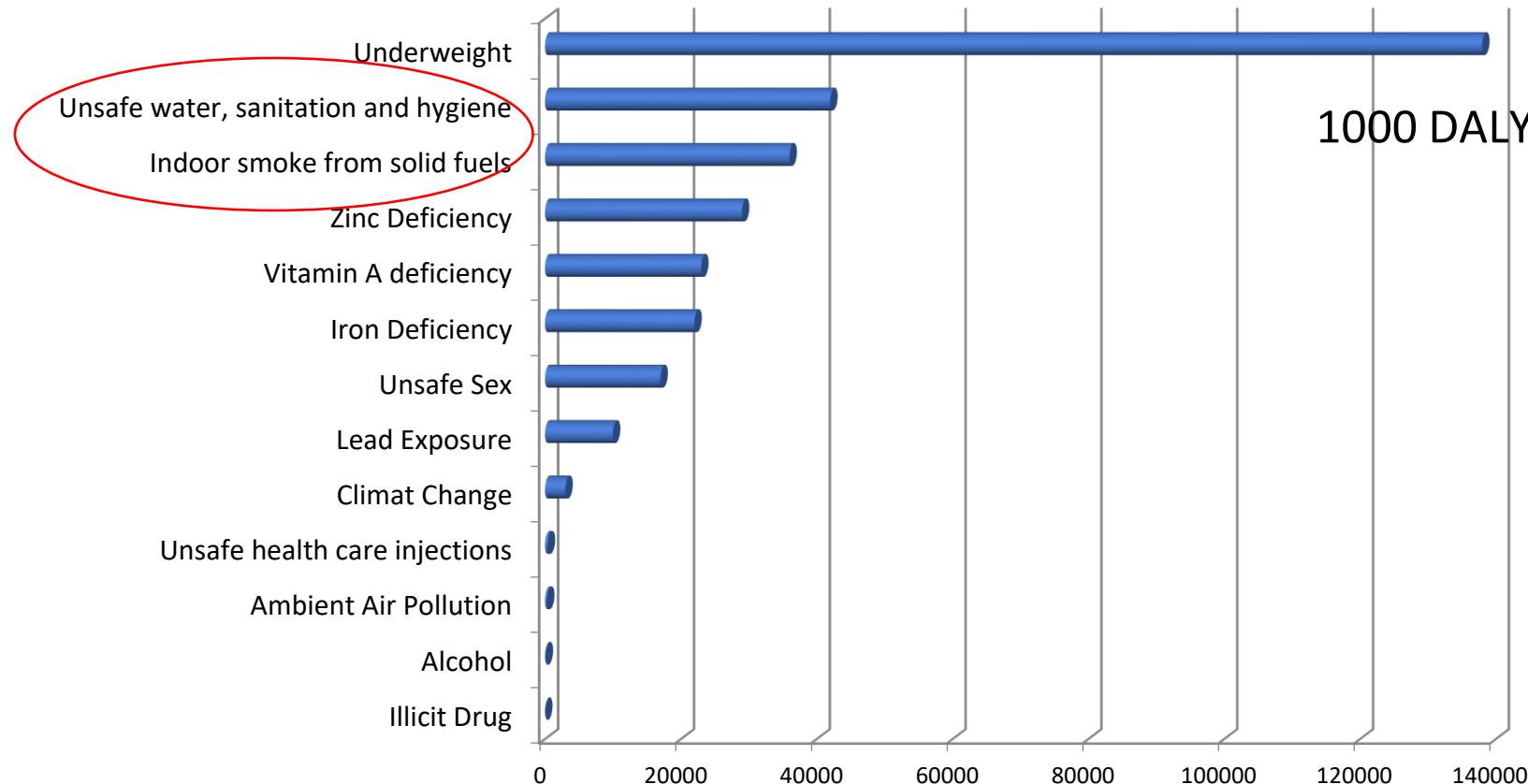
Cumulative  
emissions of  
greenhouse  
gases,  
to 2002



Estimate of  
*Per capita*  
mortality  
from climate  
change



# Childhood Disease and the Environment



Lack of clean water and in-door air pollution are 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> most important contributor to poor health in the world's children

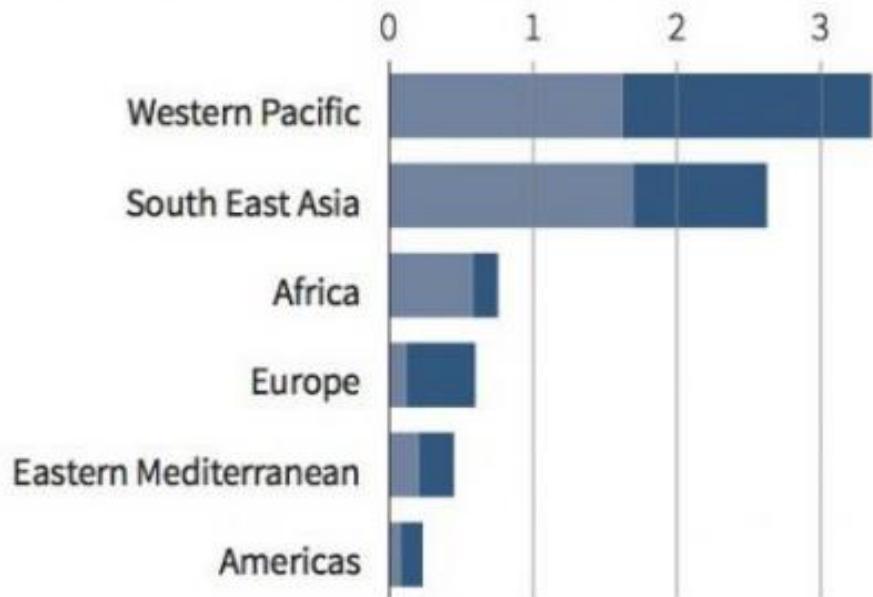
# Health effects of air pollution

## Deadly air pollution

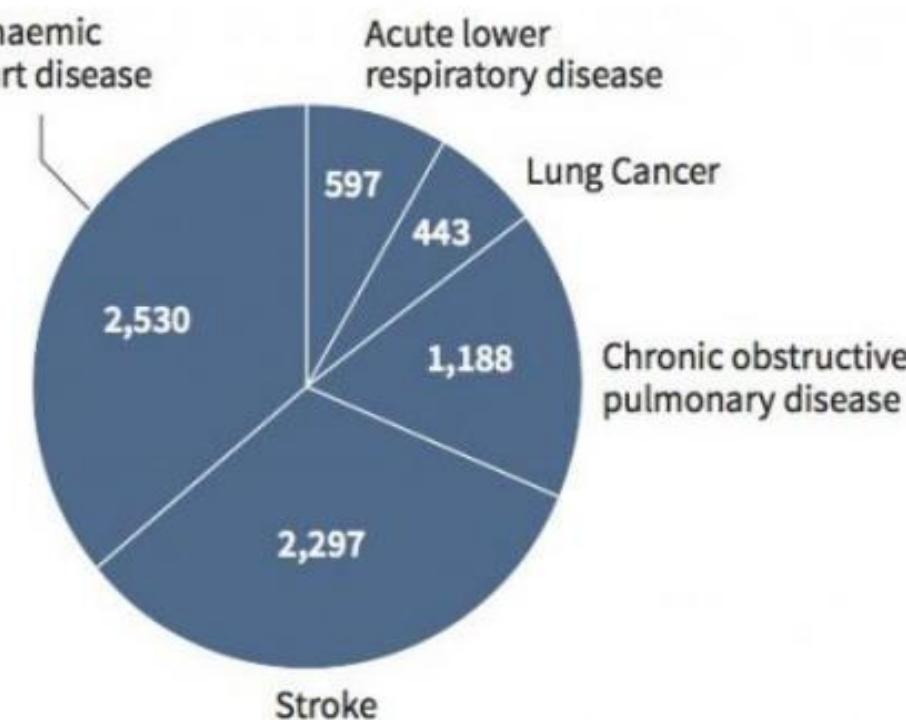
Air pollution killed around 7 million people worldwide in 2012 according to WHO's latest report.

Air pollution-linked deaths by region  
in millions

■ Indoor pollution ■ Outdoor pollution



Air pollution-linked deaths by disease  
in thousands



Indoor pollution is mostly caused by cooking over coal, wood and biomass stoves.

Outdoor pollution is mostly caused by transport, power generation, industrial and agricultural emissions, and residential heating and cooking.

# Sources of air pollution

Air pollution is a mixture of gases, particulate matter and biological entities which can individually or collectively affect human health.

## Out-door pollution



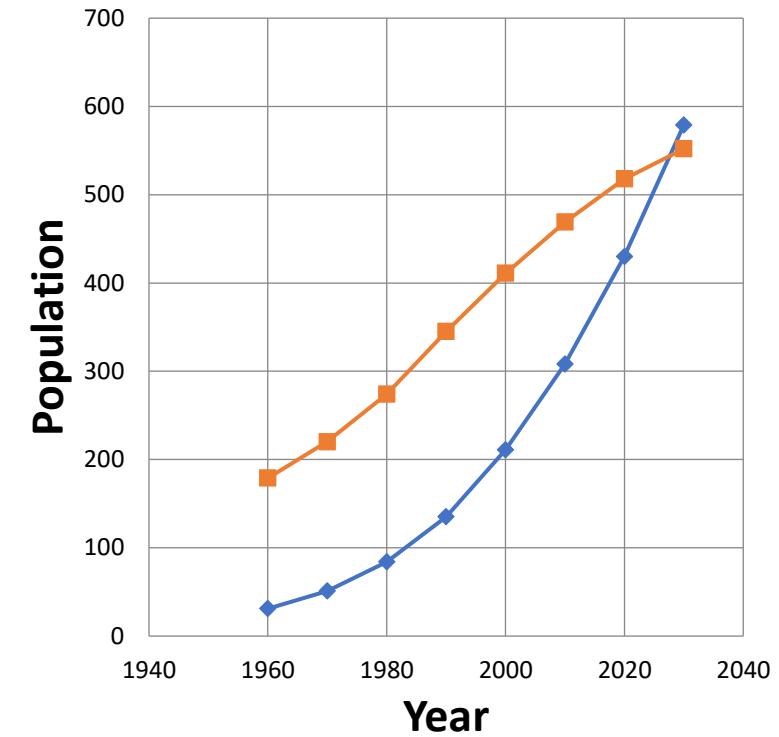
## In-door Pollution



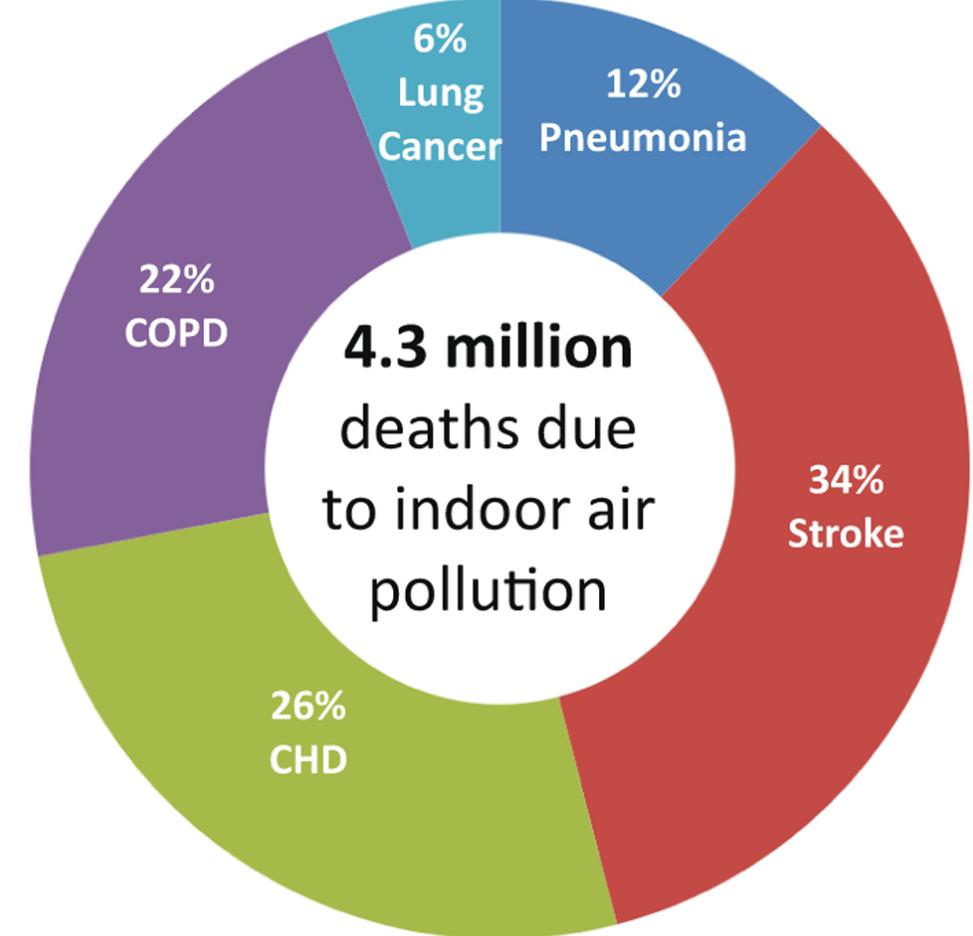
# Trends and challenges Air Pollution

- **Fast urban growth in low-and middle-income cities** – Urban population of sub-Saharan African countries is growing at rate that is twice the national average.
- By 2030 the urban population of sub-Saharan Africa countries would surpass the rural population. Most urban population lives in slums where air pollution is high- 40% is slums
- Biofuel is used by for household cooking by 50% the worldwide and in sub-Saharan countries the 80-90%. Many stoves and cooking area are not well vented and cooking stove emitter air borne pollutants such as PM, CO, PAHs and toxic hydrocarbons, and NOx, and SOx
- Children peak and mean exposure to a combined “neighborhood” and in house pollution exceed WHO guidelines for safe standards.

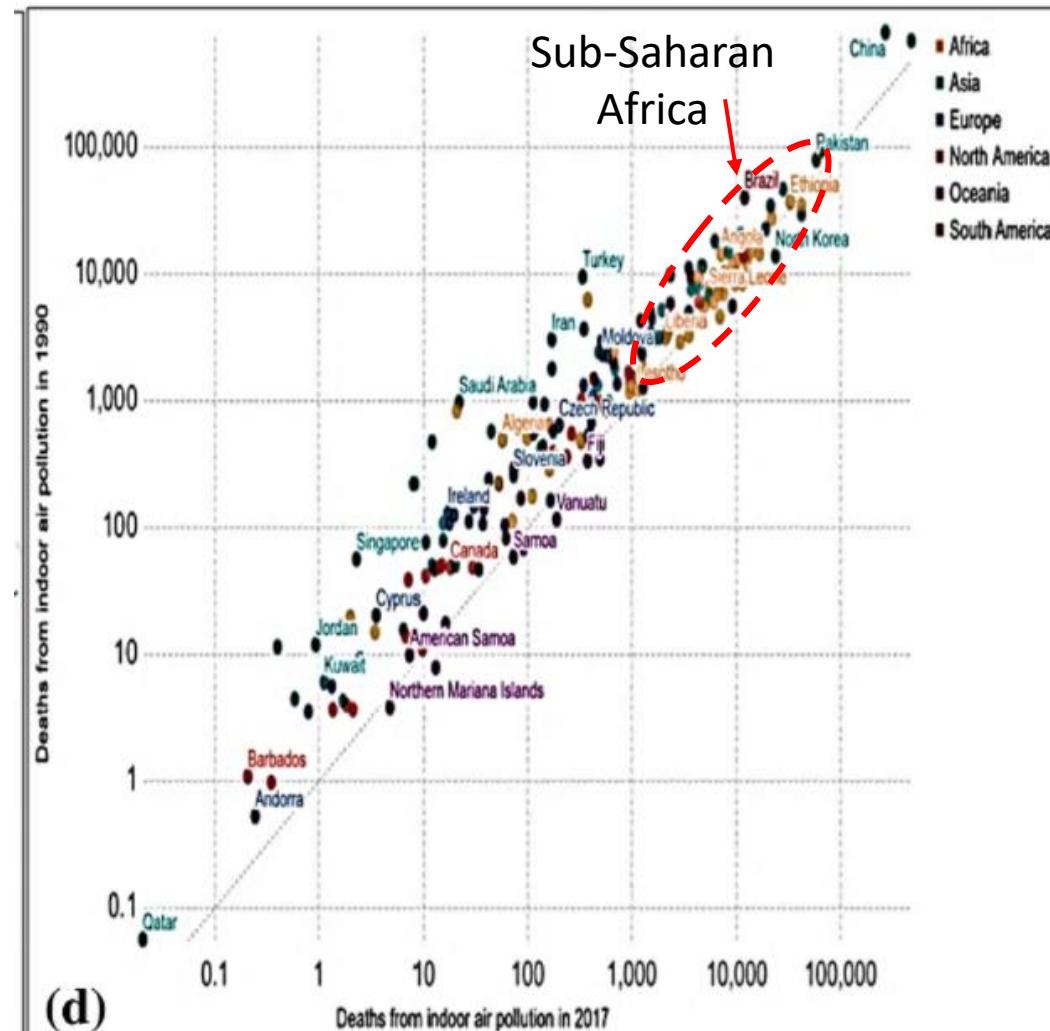
Sub-Saharan Africa Urban and Rural Population Growth



# Deaths related to indoor air pollution.

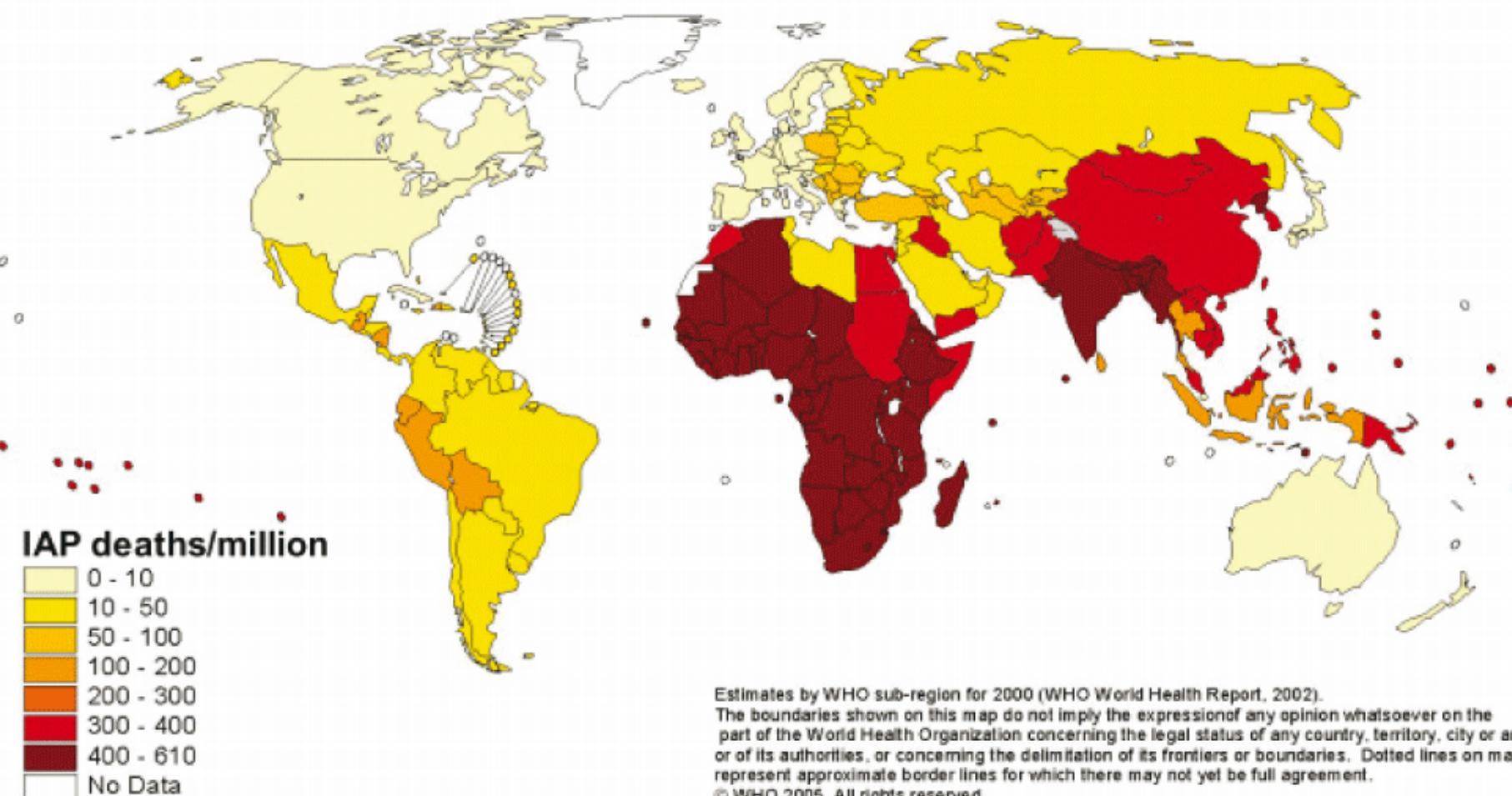


# Number of deaths by in-door air pollution in 1990 versus 2017

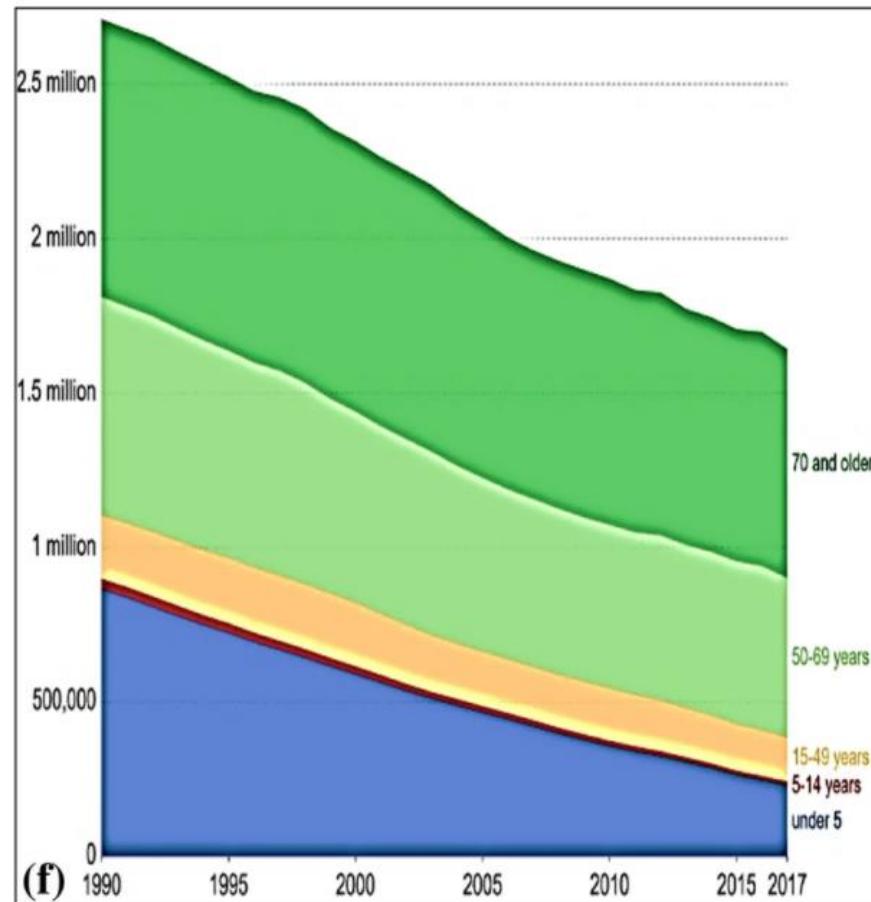


# Global in-door air pollution (IAP) mortality per million population.

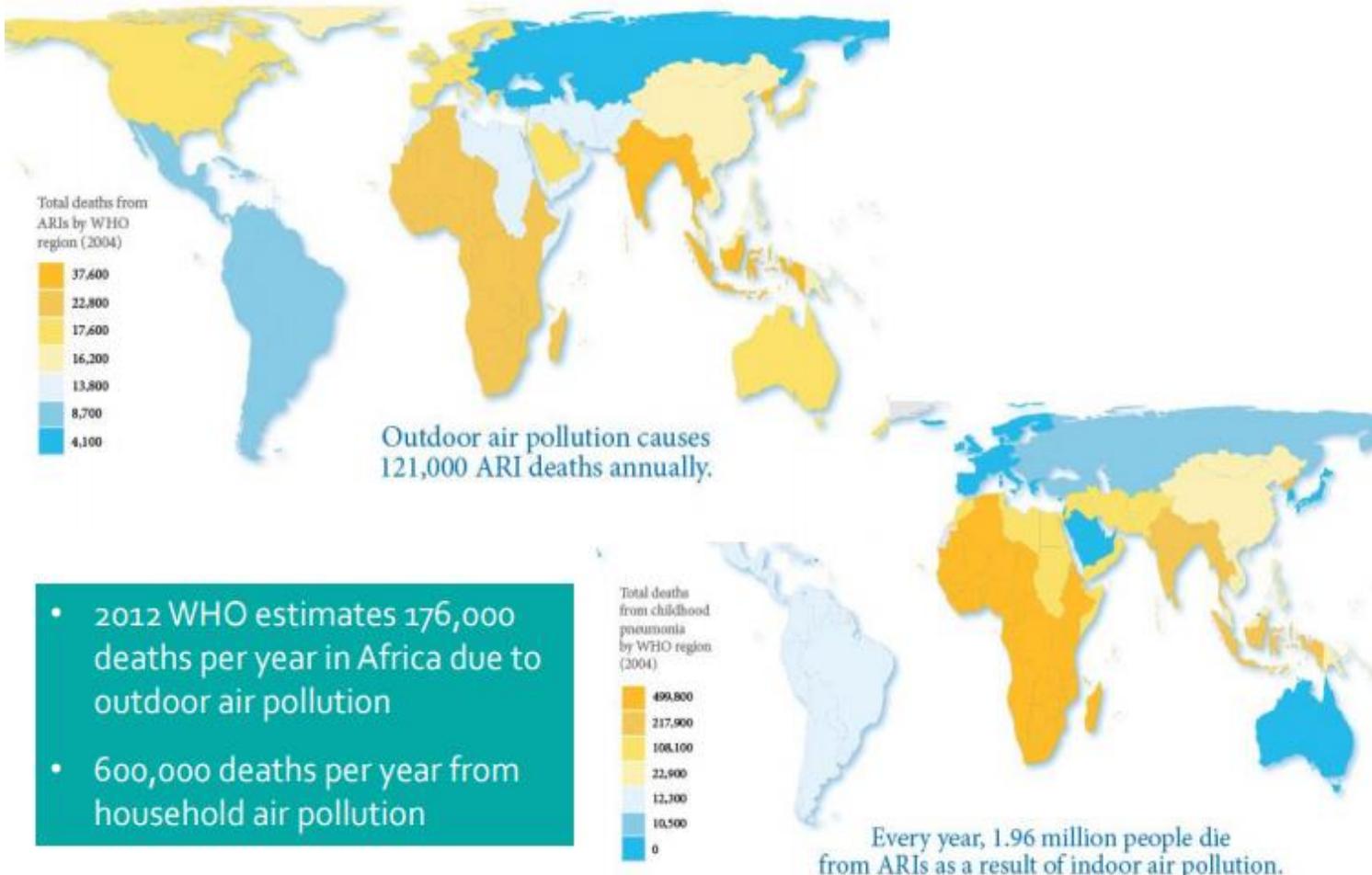
Deaths from indoor smoke from solid fuels



In-door air pollution rate per 100,000 people in 1990 versus 2017 as a function of age. Old age people above 69 year are more prone for indoor air pollution risk



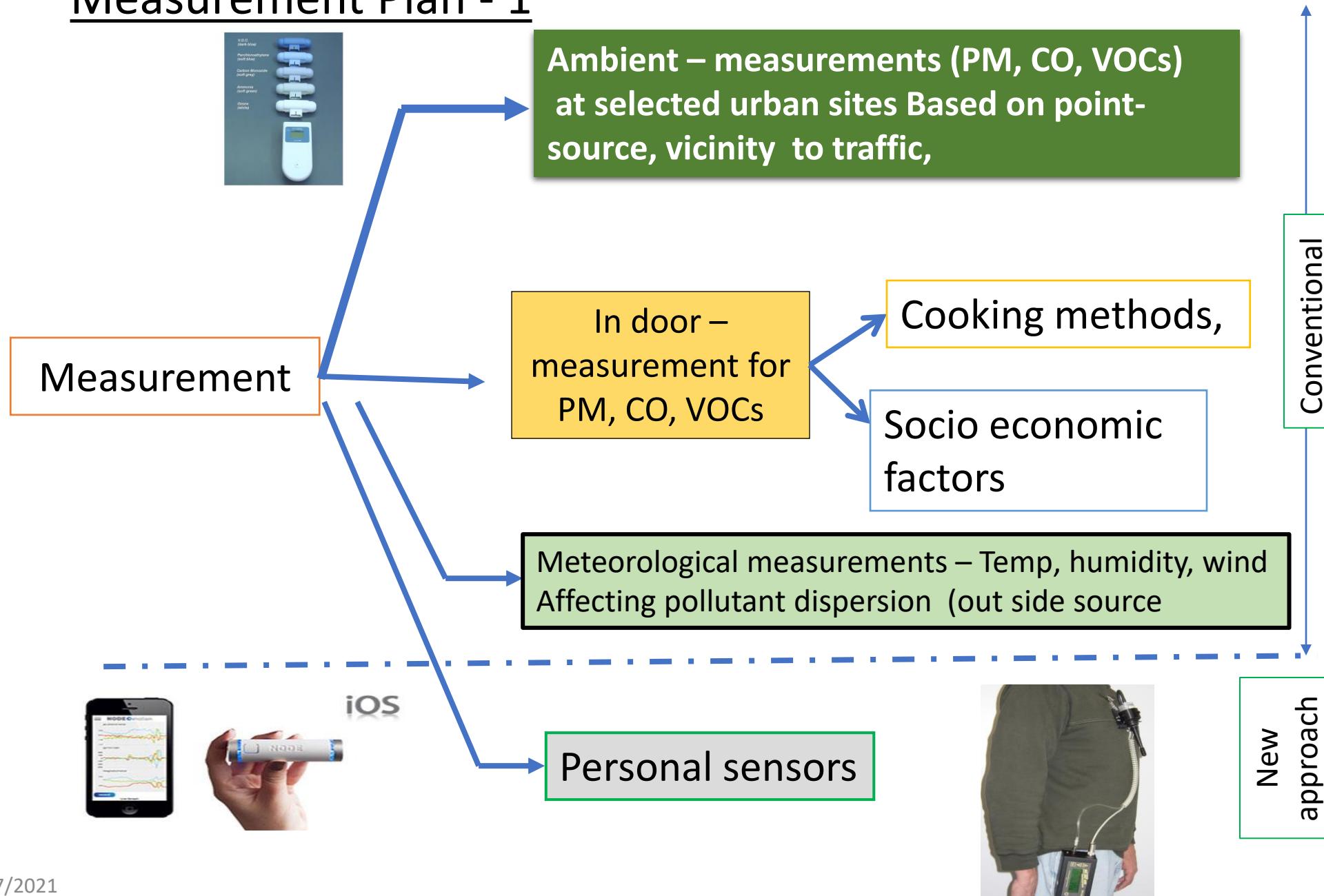
# High levels of out-door and in-door pollution in Sub-Saharan Africa



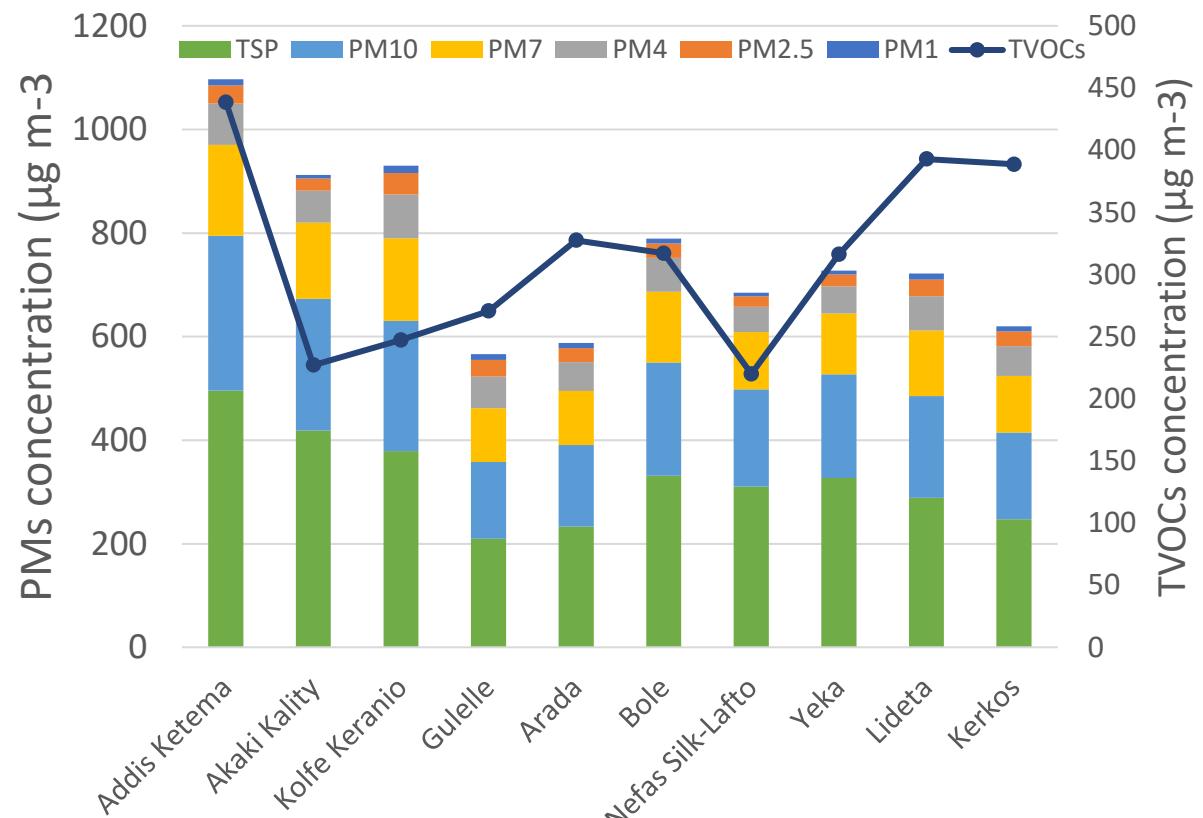
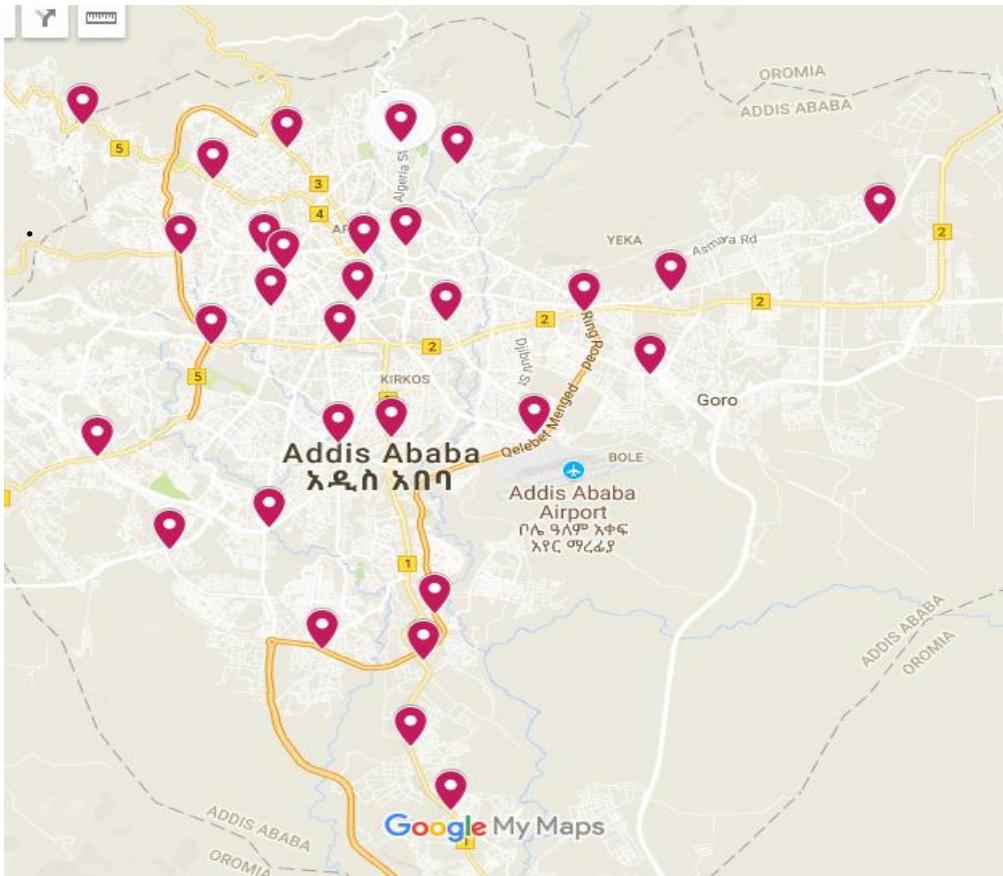
Source: The Acute Respiratory Infections Atlas: First Edition

**Case studies in collaboration with Addis Ababa University:  
Out-door and in-door air pollution in Ethiopia**

# Measurement Plan - 1



# The spatial variation of PMs and TVOCs at different sub-cities in Addis Ababa.



# Traditional cooking stove - major source of pollution

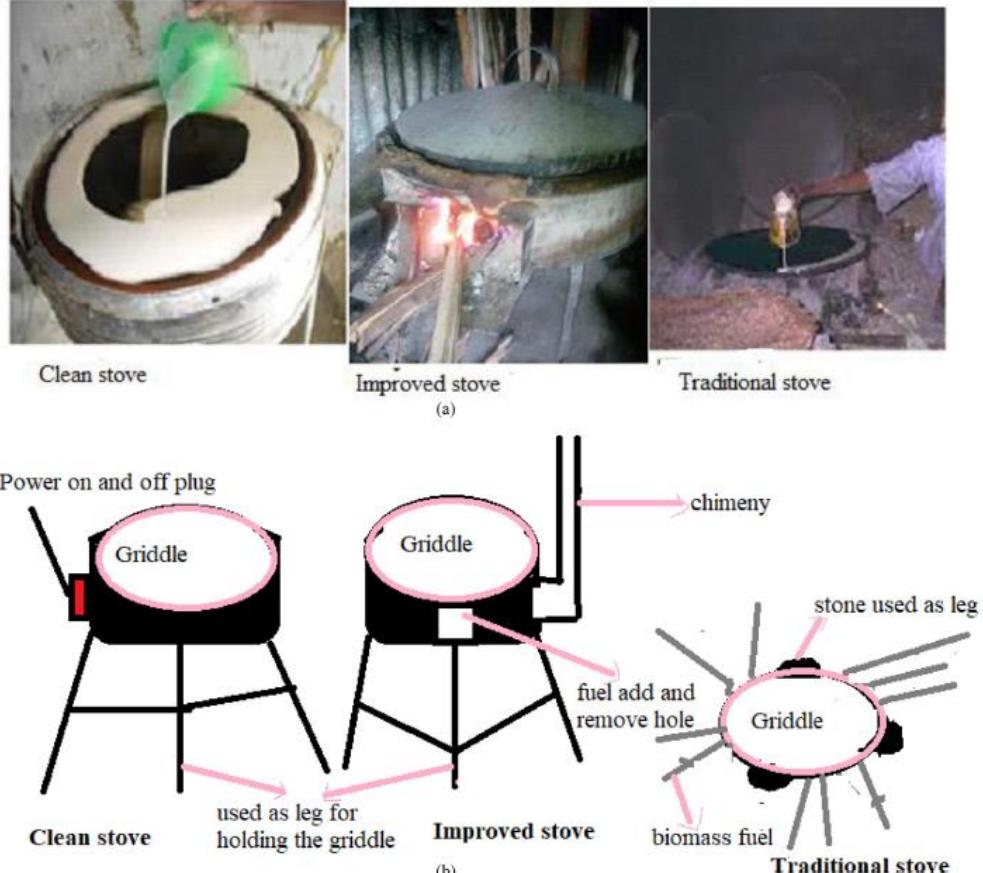
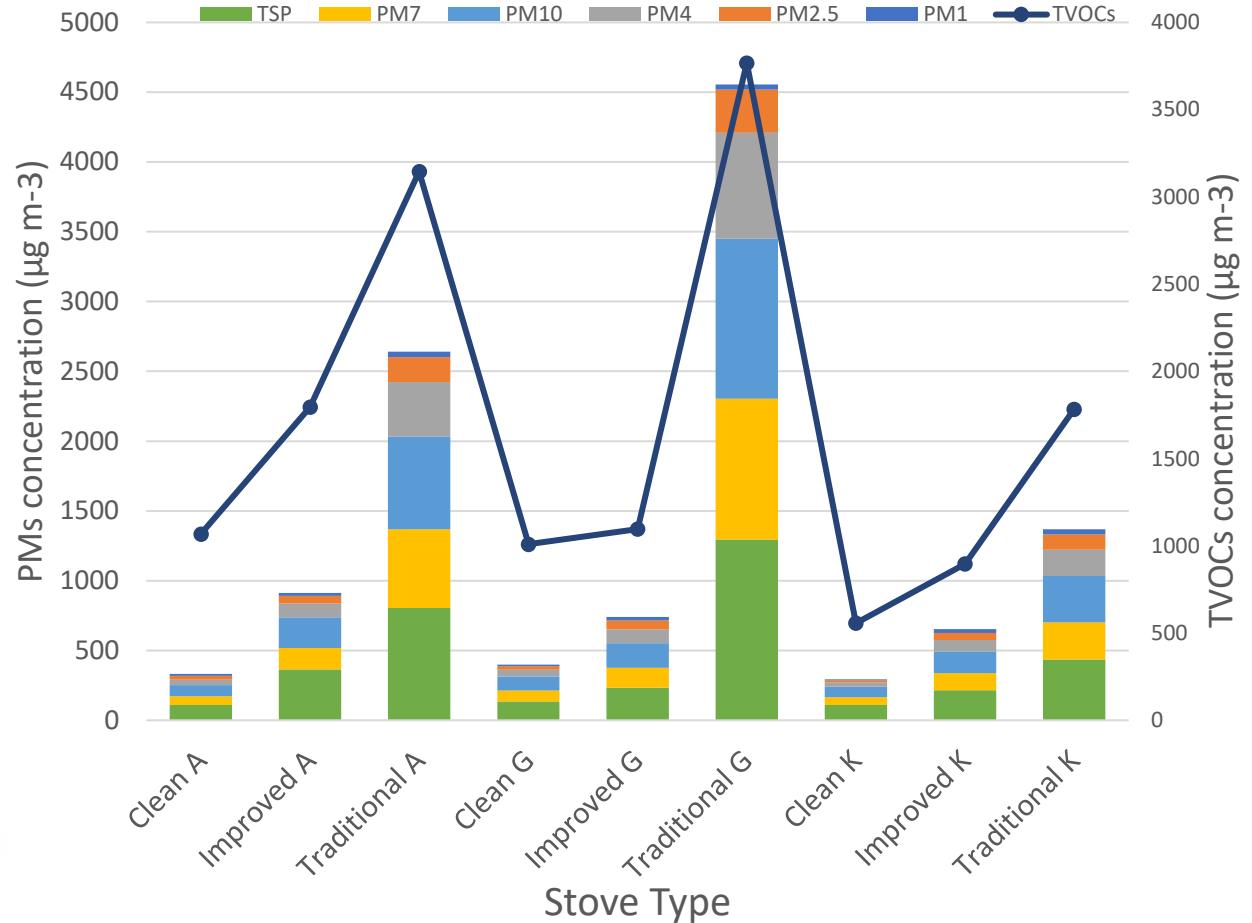
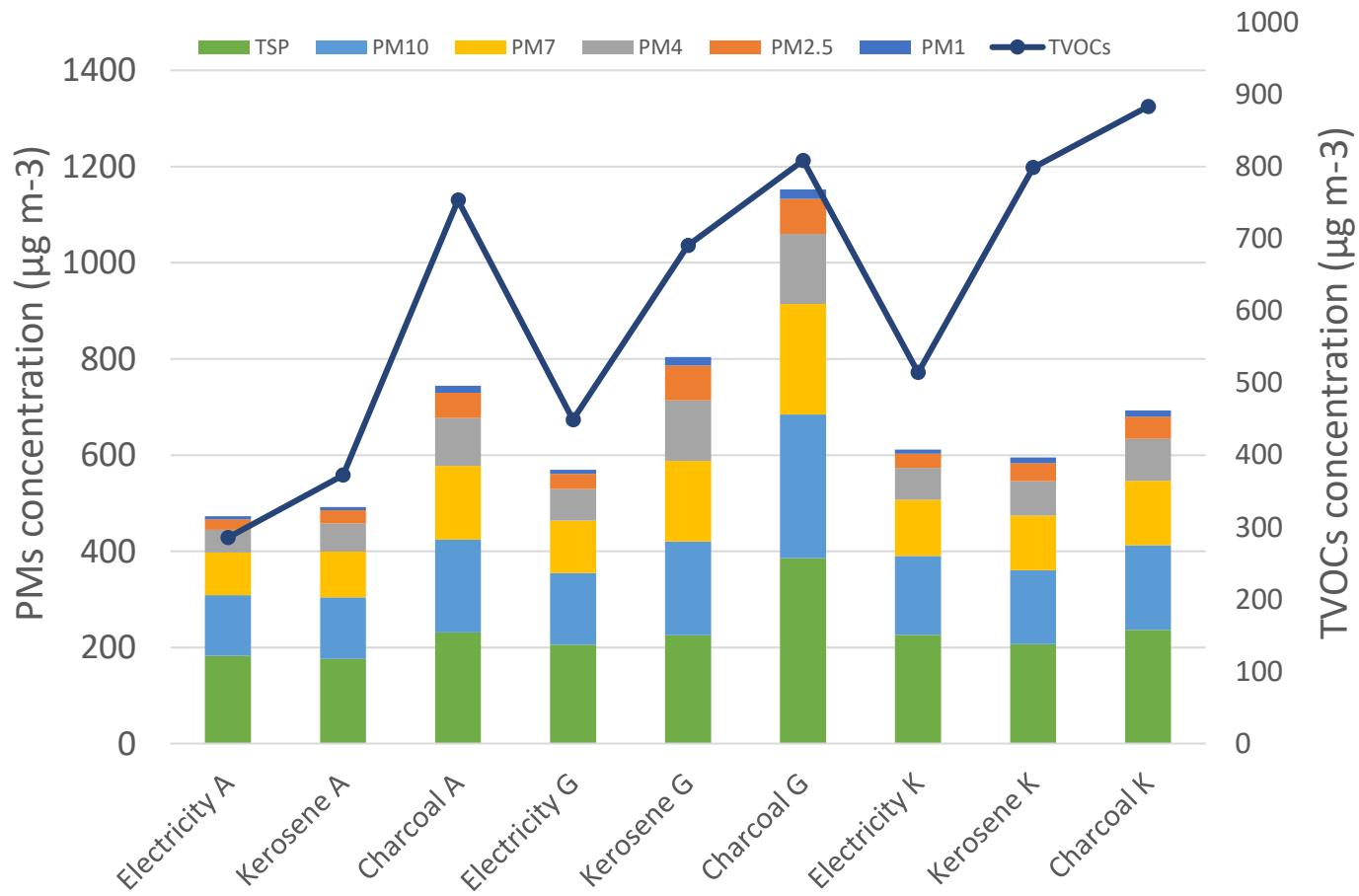
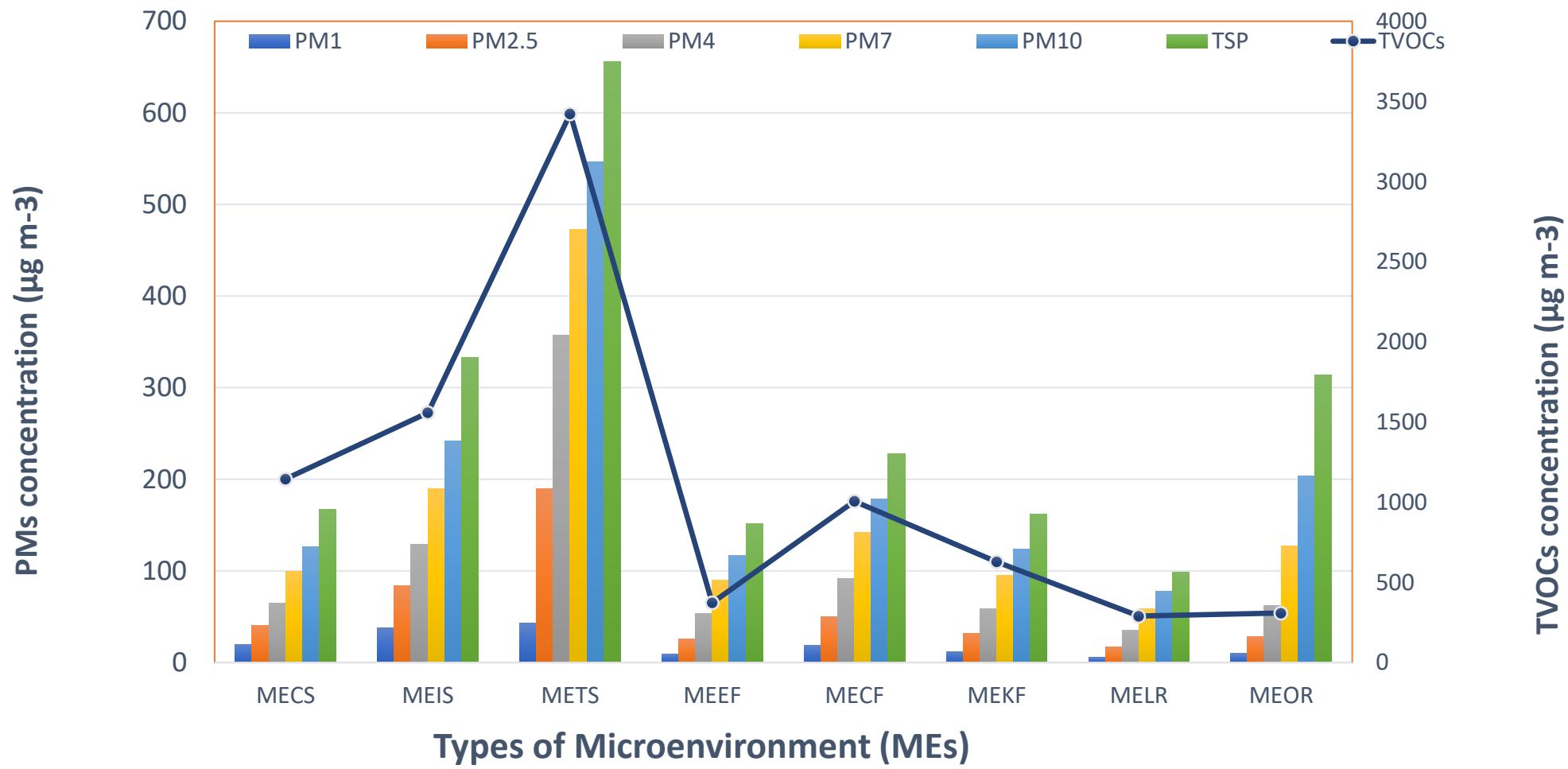


Figure 1. (a) The pictures of three types of cook stove used for baking the *Injera*. (b) The sketch of three types of cook stove used for baking the *Injera*.



# The level of PMs and TVOCs during preparation of Wot during dry season at different sites using different types of fuel type





# Health risk assessment of total volatile organic compounds, particulate matters and trace elements in PM<sub>10</sub> in typical living rooms in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Asamene Embiale, Bhagwan Singh Chandravanshi, Feleke Zewge & Endalkachew Sahle-Demessie

Received 06 Jun 2020, Accepted 19 Aug 2020, Published online: 31 Aug 2020

[Download citation](#) <https://doi.org/10.1080/03067319.2020.1814266>

[Check for updates](#)

[Full Article](#)

[Figures & data](#)

[References](#)

[Citations](#)

[Metrics](#)

[Reprints & Permissions](#)

[PDF](#)

## ABSTRACT

Formulae display:  [MathJax](#) [?](#)

Nowadays, particulate matter and total volatile organic compounds in the air are the primary environmental concern of the world due to their health impact. Therefore, the present work was focused on the assessment of short-term exposure to particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) in the air samples of different particle size (D<sub>10</sub>, D<sub>50</sub>, D<sub>90</sub>, D<sub>95</sub>), and total suspended particles (TSP), total volatile organic compounds (TVOC),

 [Springer Link](#)

Published: 24 May 2019

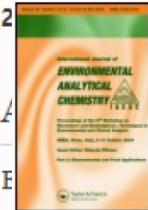
## Levels of trace elements in PM<sub>10</sub> collected at roadsides of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and exposure risk assessment

Asamene Embiale, Feleke Zewge, Bhagwan Singh Chandravanshi & Endalkachew Sahle-Demessie

[Environmental Monitoring and Assessment](#) 191, Article number: 397 (2019) | [Cite this article](#)



International Journal of Environmental Analytical Chemistry



ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/geac20>

Health risk assessment of total volatile organic compounds, particulate matters and trace elements in PM<sub>10</sub> in typical living rooms in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Asamene Embiale, Bhagwan Singh Chandravanshi, Feleke Zewge & Endalkachew Sahle-Demessie

To cite this article: Asamene Embiale, Bhagwan Singh Chandravanshi, Feleke Zewge & Endalkachew Sahle-Demessie (2020): Health risk assessment of total volatile organic compounds, particulate matters and trace elements in PM<sub>10</sub> in typical living rooms in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,



# Archives of Environmental & Occupational Health

ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/vaeh20>

## Indoor air pollution from cook-stoves during *Injera* baking in Ethiopia, exposure, and health risk assessment

Asamene Embiale, Bhagwan Singh Chandravanshi, Feleke Zewge & Endalkachew Sahle-Demessie

Eco/Toxicology

Health risk assessment of trace elements through exposure of particulate matter-10 during the cooking of Ethiopian traditional dish sauces

Asamene Embiale, Bhagwan Singh Chandravanshi, Feleke Zewge & Endalkachew Sahle-Demessie

Pages 151-169 | Received 20 Apr 2020, Accepted 10 May 2020, Accepted author version posted online: 18 May 2020, Published online: 09 Jun 2020

[Download citation](#) <https://doi.org/10.1080/0277248.2020.1770257>

[Check for updates](#)

[Full Article](#) [Figures & data](#) [References](#) [Citations](#) [Metrics](#) [Reprints & Permissions](#) [PDF](#)

## Indoor air pollution from cook-stoves during *Injera* baking in Ethiopia, exposure, and health risk assessment

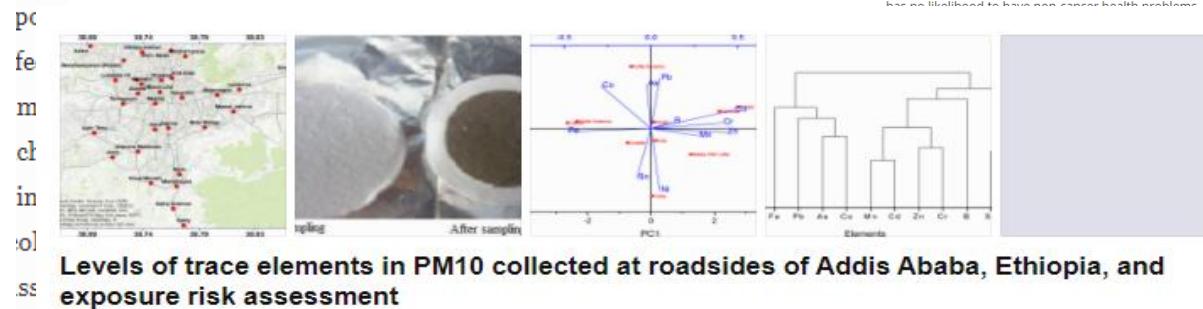
Asamene Embiale, Bhagwan Singh Chandravanshi, Feleke Zewge & Endalkachew Sahle-Demessie

Pages 103-115 | Published online: 02 Jul 2020

[Download citation](#) <https://doi.org/10.1080/19338244.2020.1787317>

[Check for updates](#)

[Full Article](#) [Figures & data](#) [References](#) [Citations](#) [Metrics](#) [Reprints & Permissions](#) [PDF](#)



Article Full-text available May 2019

Asamene Embiale, Feleke Zewge, B. S. Chandravanshi, Endalkachew Sahle-Demessie

Formulae display:  [MathJax](#) [?](#)

Related res

People also read

Indoor air pollution from cook-stoves during *Injera* baking in Ethiopia, exposure, and health risk assessment

Asamene Embiale, Bhagwan Singh Chandravanshi, Feleke Zewge & Endalkachew Sahle-Demessie

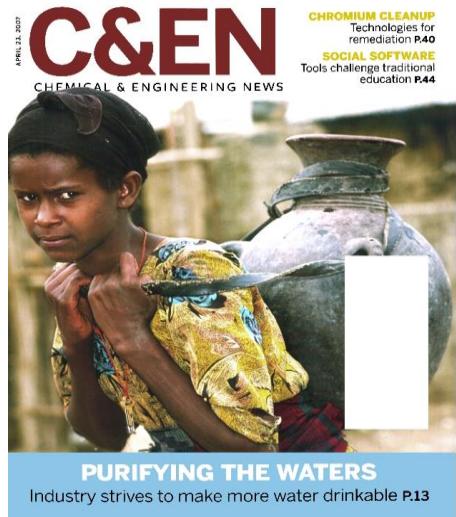
Published online: 2020

Environmental Protection Agency, except the tolerable range. Furthermore, the total sum of element concentrations was observed using kerosene. The use of kerosene and charcoal stove were for the cooking of *Wot*.

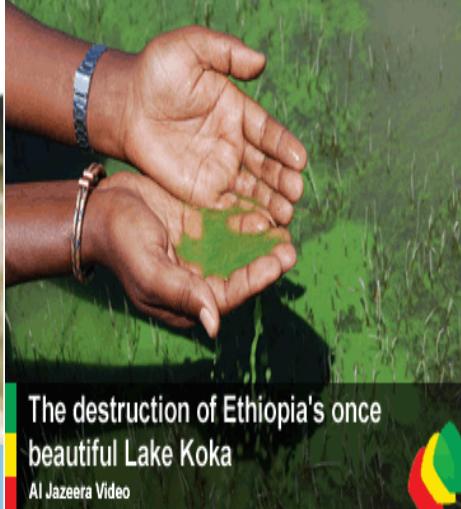
[Health risk assessment](#) [Fuel type](#)

# Environment and Public Health

## Water Stress



## Water Quality



## Industrial Discharge



## Chronic Air Pollution

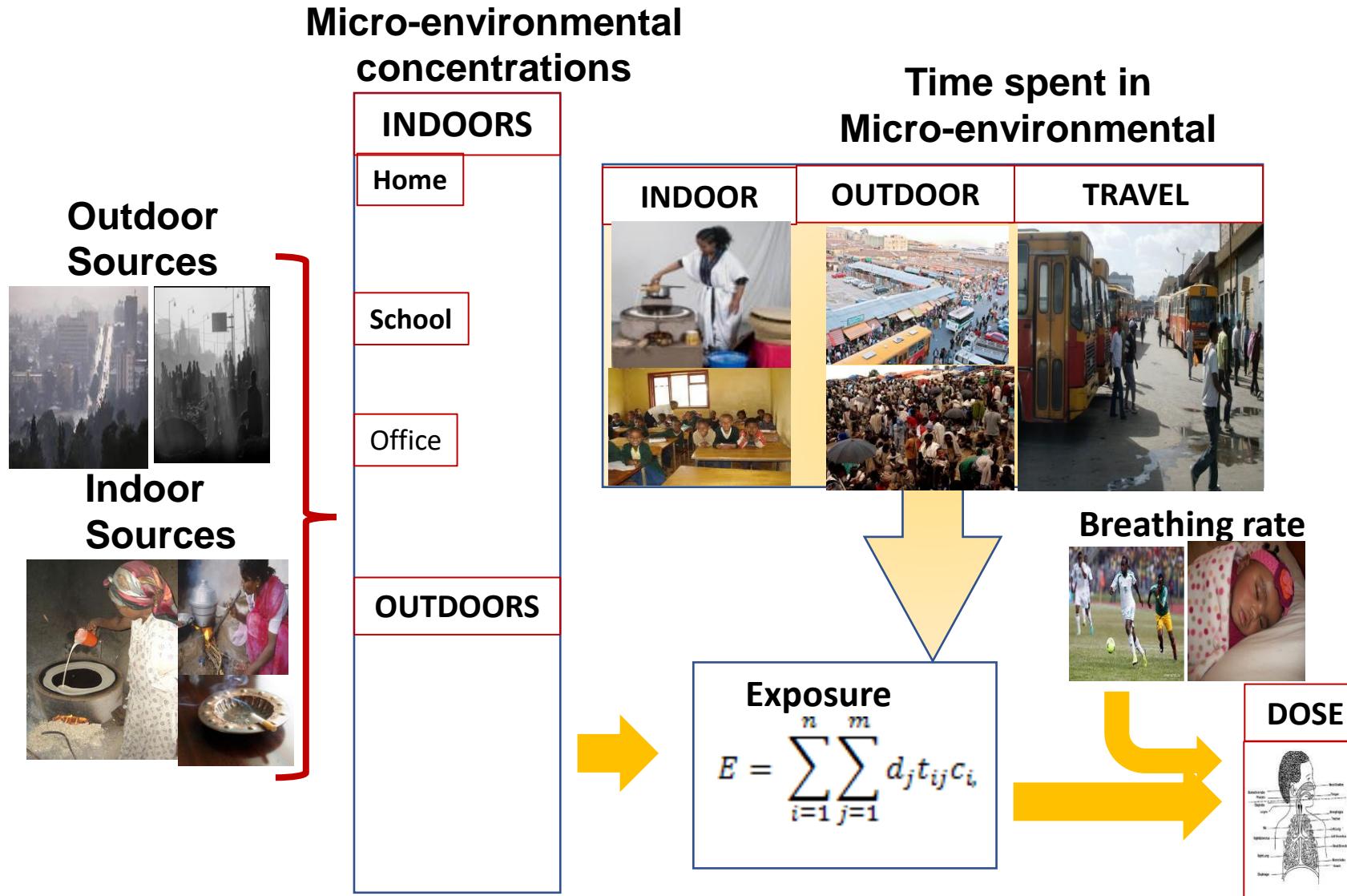


## Solid waste



- Water supply, industrial and municipal pollution,
- Wastewater treatment, Vector control
- Urban air quality management and
- In-door pollution from biomass fuels stoves
- Prevention and control of land pollution – recycling, reuse, converting solid waste to energy

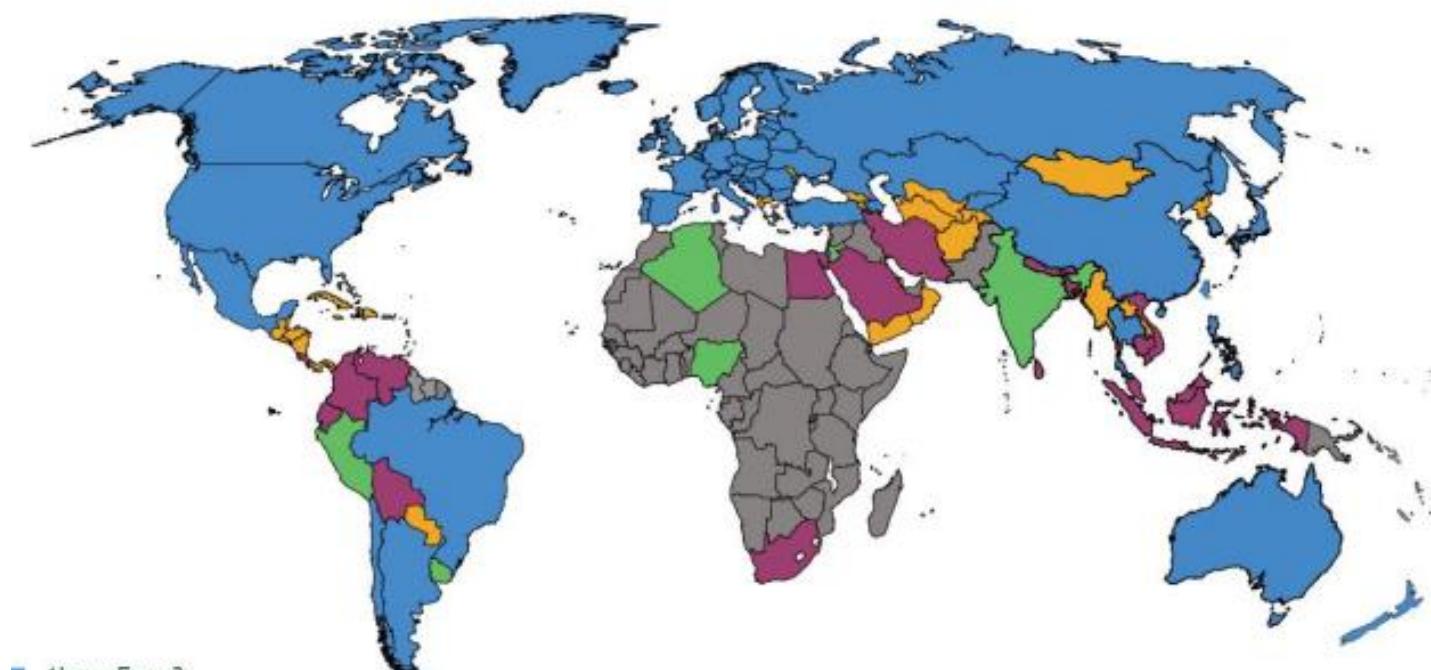
# Human Exposure and Dose Simulation Model for Air Pollutants



# The need for more air quality data



Vehicle Emissions Standards  
June 2017



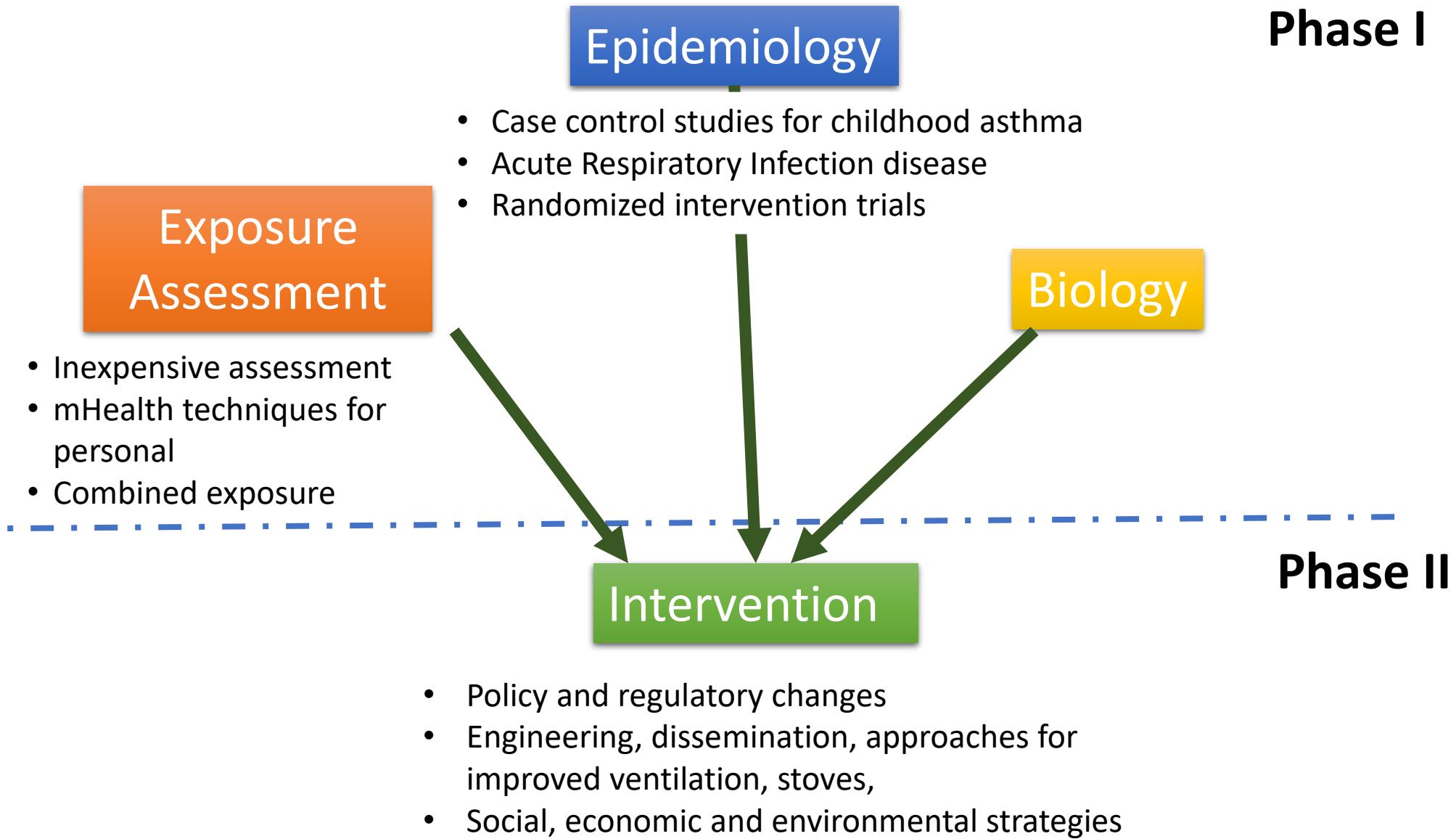
- Above Euro 3
- Euro 3
- Below Euro 3
- No Policy
- Unknown

[www.unep.org/Transport/pcfvs](http://www.unep.org/Transport/pcfvs)

## **The Clean Air Initiative Sub-Saharan Africa (started 1998)**

1. Raise awareness of the dangers of urban air pollution, and its relation to vehicle and fuel choices;
2. Identify the population at highest risk (children and their mothers, street vendors, and pedestrian commuters);
3. Measure baseline vehicle emissions, air quality, pollution exposure, and pollution effects;
4. Identify the most cost-effective measures targeting changes in vehicles, fuels, and traffic management;
5. Design, implement, and monitor the impacts of Air Quality Action Plans to reduce pollution, including clear, measurable, and enforceable goals for reducing pollutants; and
6. Strengthen local expertise on air pollution and vehicle and fuel performance

# Research Framework





Thank you