

## **Abstract 2: Children's Environmental Health Indicator pilot in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

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CEHI work in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) began in Oman and Tunisia December 2003 for completion by May 2005. Another pilot in Iran is underway for completion by December 2005. Additionally, major CEHI work in Yemen and Pakistan is scheduled to start May 2005 for completion by June 2006. The main objectives:

- a) Assess the availability, accessibility, accuracy and reliability of information on CEH
- b) Assess and prioritize the environmental health risk factors affecting children within the home environment and its immediate surroundings including: household water security (quantity and quality); sanitation; personal and food hygiene; shelter and housing quality; indoor air quality; out door air quality; physical safety; and chemical safety.
- c) Refine CEH indicators in view of regional conditions and promote their use as a tool for decision making to improve environmental conditions for children
- d) Establish a monitoring system of EH risk factors affecting children in pilot countries

The project implementation approach in Tunisia and Oman started with generating preliminary reports on children environmental health with descriptive and numerical account on the state of children environmental health in the pilot countries. The reports assess the availability and coverage of information, in time and spatially, on each issue. The study teams utilized existing information sources such as DHS surveys, surveillance data, and scientific studies to report on the indicators of children environmental health. Population based survey were conducted to assess and prioritize the risk factors affecting children within the home environment and its immediate surroundings. Both the exposure conditions and health effects were assessed. Reports on the State of Children Environmental Health will be generated and launched at national seminars to disseminate the findings and encourage action.