

January 2021

# Strategic Framework

Workplace Health Without Borders

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# Workplace Health without Borders (WHWB International)

## Strategic Framework

### Vision

A world in which workers, their families, and communities do not become ill because of their work.

### Mission

To prevent work-related disease and injury through the sharing of expertise, knowledge and skills with underserved populations wherever needed throughout the world.

### Who is WHWB?

- WHWB is a global network of concerned professionals who volunteer their knowledge and skills toward the prevention of work-related disease and injury. Membership is open without restriction. WHWB's primary focus is the health and safety of workers with limited access to occupational hygiene/health expertise whether in low/medium income countries (LMICs) or richer nations.

### Principles

1. WHWB recognizes occupational health and safety as a basic human right, as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in [Fundamental Principles of Occupational Health](#), p.17, as follows:

*“All workers have rights. Workers, as well as employers and governments, must ensure that these rights are protected and must strive to establish and maintain decent working conditions and a decent working environment. More specifically:*

- *work should take place in a safe and healthy working environment;*
- *conditions of work should be consistent with workers' well-being and human dignity;*
- *work should offer real possibilities for personal achievement, self-fulfilment and service to society”.*

2. WHWB adheres to the Codes of Ethics of the [International Commission on Occupational Health \(ICOH\)](#) and the [International Occupational Hygiene Association \(IOHA\)](#) particularly in relation to:

- o Ensuring that work is carried out competently and according to the highest professional standards;
- o Respecting the dignity of all those we serve, especially those who may be socially or economically disadvantaged;
- o Communicating in a frank and open manner so as to preserve a high reputation for integrity.

3. WHWB treats all persons it serves in a respectful and equitable manner and actively encourages diversity in its membership and collaborators. It does not discriminate on the basis of age, nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion, ability, or other physical or social factors.
4. WHWB **supports**, and through its activities, seeks to empower workers throughout the world in having a safe and healthy workplace. Toward this end WHWB works with employers, workers, governments, local communities and others, seeking to engage all in a joint, cooperative, and positive effort to prevent workers' disease and injury. WHWB activities are aligned with the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
  - Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
  - Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
  - Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
5. WHWB maintains professional independence when making judgements and giving advice. It does not promote the interests of any commercial or political entity and actively avoids conflicts of interest that would jeopardize its objectivity.
6. WHWB is committed to the highest level of accuracy and scientific integrity in all of its communications. In the absence of firm evidence or clarity, it readily acknowledges this, but will proceed and advise always with the intent of reducing occupational health risk to workers and will apply or promote the adoption of the *precautionary principle* in these circumstances.

### **Strategic Priorities and Areas of Action**

1. **WHWB works internationally to promote awareness, practice and collaboration on occupational health and hygiene, especially on concerns which are not being sufficiently recognized or addressed in the following ways:**
  - Exchanging knowledge and promote awareness through web, print, presentations, and other communication activities;
  - Integrating occupational health into the priorities and activities of organizations serving disadvantaged or underserved populations;
  - Identifying, researching and responding to current and emerging needs
  - Facilitating collaboration among interested parties in the development and promotion of solutions to occupational health challenges;
  - Influencing public health policy priorities to protect workers and prevent disease in resource-poor settings.

**2. WHWB works directly in underserved areas to build sustainable occupational health and hygiene expertise and capacity through these approaches:**

- Providing training, mentoring, knowledge-sharing and skills development programs;
- Conducting technical assistance projects using evidence-based best practices;
- Collaborating with local and regional occupational health organizations on issues of common concern;
- Developing and disseminating practical guidance, tools and methods for effective hazard reduction and risk management.