

## PLANETARY HEALTH/GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH/ONE HEALTH

### Project “Environment Ni Mimi” By Kenya Association of Physicians and medical workers for social responsibility (Apms) – Moi University chapter

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**Background:** The Kenya Association of Physicians and medical workers for social responsibility is an affiliate of the broader International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). The Association is Non – governmental and its main objectives are to improve the quality of human life through the provision of good health based on the understanding that its members’ responsibility as medical workers goes beyond treating patients in hospitals and include tackling the primary causes of human suffering. The association has its members in different medical schools spread across Kenya. Each year, the members in the respective schools are tasked with the responsibility of coming up with a project which will promote social responsibility among the communities around them. The students are well trained in a workshop to equip them with the right skills which will enable them to do this.

Students of the medical school at Moi University realized that there was a lot of littering taking place around the school and hospital environs. As a result, they came up with project “Environment ni Mimi”, which when translated means ‘the environment is my responsibility’. The project entailed ensuring the environment is better taken care of. It portrays; the responsibility of the environment begins with an individual and then becomes a collective responsibility.

**Method:** The main objectives of the project were to create more awareness on the environment, to curb the excessive dumping of litter around the school and hospital environment and to promote social responsibility among the health workers and students. Students organized an anti-litter campaign and designed posters and T-shirts which were advertised all around school. In addition, there was a major clean-up day organized which saw the picking up of litter and placing of dust bins in strategic places within the school compound.

**Outcome and Evaluation:** The school environs is more litter free. The dust bins are well used and there has been awareness created on the importance of a litter free environment.

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### The Caribbean Consortium for Research in Environmental and Occupational Health (CCREOH): A transdisciplinary roadmap in addressing regional EOH threats

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**Program Purpose:** CCREOH aims: characterize key EOH risks associated with gold mining–related mercury contamination, pesticide use in agriculture, and indigenous nutraceutical contamination

to inform a gap- and opportunities assessment of relevant environmental policies; create a sustainable public health and EOH network to serve as the trans-disciplinary research and training hub for CCREOH; develop a trans-disciplinary research roadmap to guide the consortium’s EOH research leveraging all consortium partner assets; and develop a capacity building portfolio including a regional EOH training program to successfully implement the priority areas articulated in the CCREOH research roadmap.

**Structure/Method/Design:** CCREOH’s investigator team is indicative of its trans-disciplinary research portfolio, bringing together an array of scientists from biology to epidemiology, toxicology and medicine (University of Suriname, Tulane University). Partner countries include Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and northern Brazil. Environmental assessments were conducted to identify health threats associated with priority hazardous substances. Occupational assessments were implemented to identify EOH workforce gaps. An inventory of environmental policies was established to ascertain country and regional EOH protection strategies. A preliminary evaluation of medicinal plants and nutraceuticals identified key plants of focus for further toxico-pharmacologic testing.

**Outcomes & Evaluation:** Hg and pesticides were identified as key contaminants of concern, posing potential adverse health effects to pregnant women and their offspring. From an occupational perspective, critical technical cadre is missing, especially laboratory technicians. No environmental policy exists in Suriname. While Hg is banned, it is actively being used in goldmining; likewise, while pesticide import is regulated, distribution, handling, sale, and disposal in agriculture is not. The CCREOH team has developed a roadmap to address each of these EOH threats. CARPHA is a regional network to engage other countries with similar EOH threats and to disseminate findings.

**Going Forward:** CCREOH was awarded a GEOHealth hub (1U01TW010087-01; 1U2RTW010104-01 NIH/FIC) to assess the impact of environmental exposures on 1000 maternal-child dyads recruited during pregnancy and followed prospectively through four years of age in Suriname (U01-Suriname) complemented by a robust research training portfolio (U2R-Tulane)

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### Utilizing a One Health approach for identifying risk factors associated with an epidemic of chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu) in the North Central region of Sri Lanka

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**Background:** An epidemic of chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu) has been occurring in Sri Lanka over the past