

Decent Work : Improving Occupational Health of Informal Workers to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (*SDGs*)

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Scientific Committee on Small-Scale Enterprises and the Informal Sector
SCOHSSEIS

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SCOHSSEIS

Our Vision

Healthy working conditions for the world's diverse working populations

- **Building capability** to prevent work-related illness & disease in Micro & Small-Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- **Promoting access** to basic occupational health services (BOHS) for Informal Sector workers

Workers of the World



Country	Labor force
China	780,000,000
India	478,300,000
United States	154,900,000
Indonesia	116,500,000
Brazil	103,600,000
Russia	75,550,000
Bangladesh	73,870,000
Japan	65,700,000
Pakistan	55,770,000
Nigeria	48,330,000
Mexico	46,990,000
Vietnam	46,210,000
Germany	43,350,000
Philippines	38,900,000
Thailand	38,700,000
Ethiopia	37,900,000
Burma	31,680,000
United Kingdom	31,450,000
France	28,210,000
Egypt	26,100,000



Global Burden of Work-related Injury & Illness

Globally 2.2 million workers die each year from work-related injury and illness

Economic cost is \$ 1.25 trillion annually or 4% of global GDP

Mostly in developing nations affecting their health systems, social welfare and economic activity with significant impact on productivity and physical & mental well-being of communities.

– ILO (2012)

SDG 8: *Decent Work*

- ▶ The United Nations **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8** on *Decent Work* recognises that decent work for sustainable development needs to

“protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment”.

- ▶ **Mystery kidney epidemic is slowly killing Sri Lankan farmers** - *The Independent*



What is killing sugar-cane workers across Central America?

Chronic kidney disease has killed tens of thousands of young men and is becoming more deadly. But nobody knows exactly what it is, or what to do about it - *The Observer*



Dying in Dust: For Rajasthan's Miners, Silicosis Deepens Struggle With TB

Anumeha Yadav
09/Dec/2018

Mukesh Jatav, a Dalit miner who has been migrating annually to Bijolia since he was 15, said the previous year he had seen three colleagues die after coughing blood for weeks.



The biggest lung disease crisis since asbestos: Our love of stone kitchen benchtops is killing workers

7.30

By [Michael Atkin](#)

Updated 58 minutes ago



PHOTO: [Tahir Ozkul covered with dust after cutting stone](#) (Supplied: Tahir Ozkul)

RELATED STORY: [Dying benchtop workers lodge silicosis claims, prompting urgent health warning](#)

RELATED STORY: ['Tip of the iceberg': Coal miner's death after silicosis diagnosis a warning on dust levels](#)

RELATED STORY: [Brisbane tunnel workers face lung disease from silica exposure: expert](#)

Doctors are worried Australia is facing the worst occupational lung disease crisis since the peak of the asbestos disaster.



THE EXPRESS

Spike in silicosis cases after six tradies diagnosed at Bankstown hospital

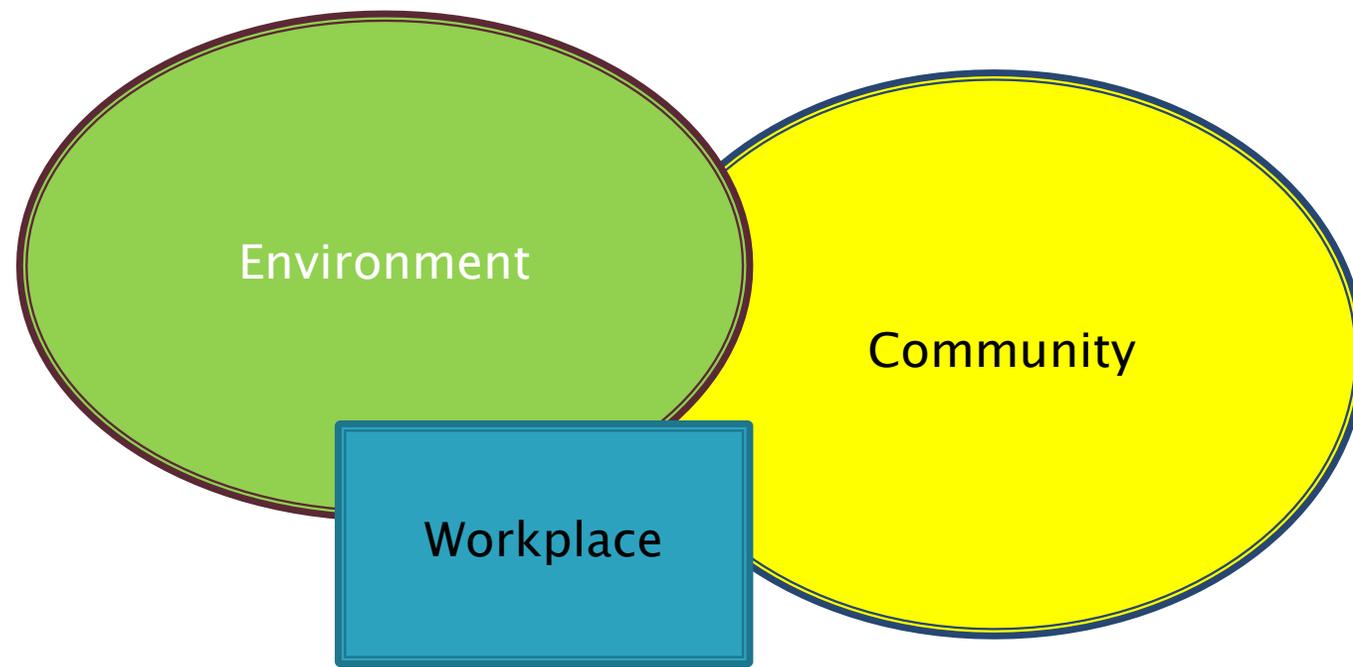
Danielle Buckley, Canterbury-Bankstown Express

March 12, 2018 12:25pm Subscriber only

• A spike in silicosis cases has Sydney doctors warning tradesmen of the dangers of the deadly dust disease.

Can current strategies address UN SDGs?





***The Lancet* Global Health Commission**

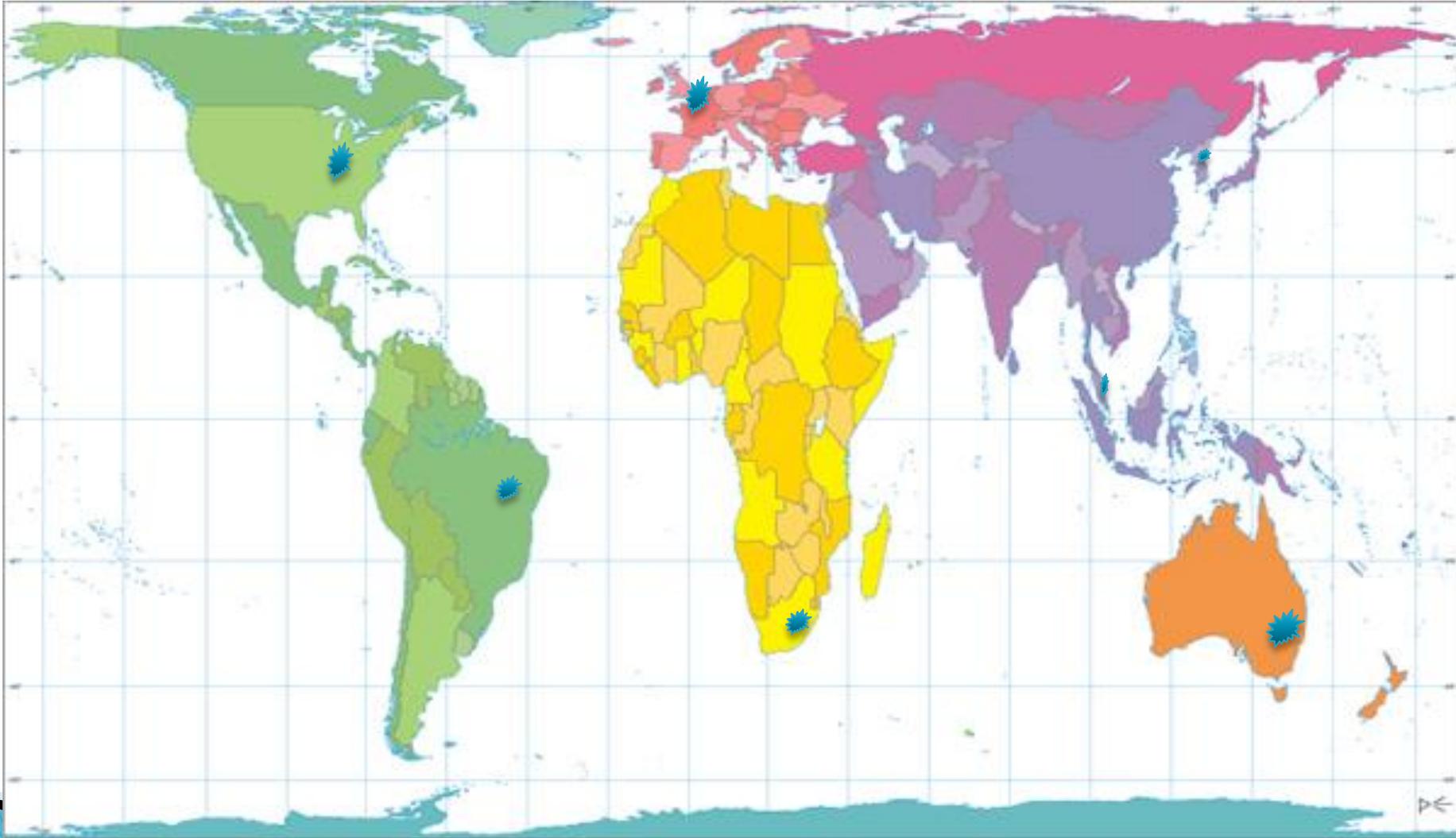
- ▶ High quality health systems could save over 8 million lives each year in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)

– *The Lancet* (Nov 2018)

We need new approaches

- **Burden of preventable disease is increasing BUT access to health services for the vulnerable must be improved**
 - **Workplace Health remains a ‘blind spot’ in primary health care until diverse disciplines come together to facilitate basic health services**
 - **Fundamental shift in training and research to build local capability that is self-reliant and sustainable**
- 

Where are the occupational hygienists?



Capability Building Workshop

Silicosis–TB prevention: A multi–disciplinary approach

We focussed on:

- ▶ *air monitoring for dust exposures*
- ▶ *low–cost dust controls*
- ▶ *occupational history taking*
- ▶ *better diagnosis*
- ▶ *counselling for patients*



New Delhi, India Feb 2019)

Access to BOHS: Harnessing the Telecommunication revolution

- ▶ ***You Tube* video alerts** for better hazard communication
- ▶ **Community Radio** for health communication
- ▶ **Artificial Intelligence** for better diagnosis
- ▶ **Telemedicine** for remote communities



Research 'Vignettes'



Globally, less than 10% of **research & development** is devoted to health issues that comprise 90% of its disease burden

Thank You

Questions ?

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