



GOSH

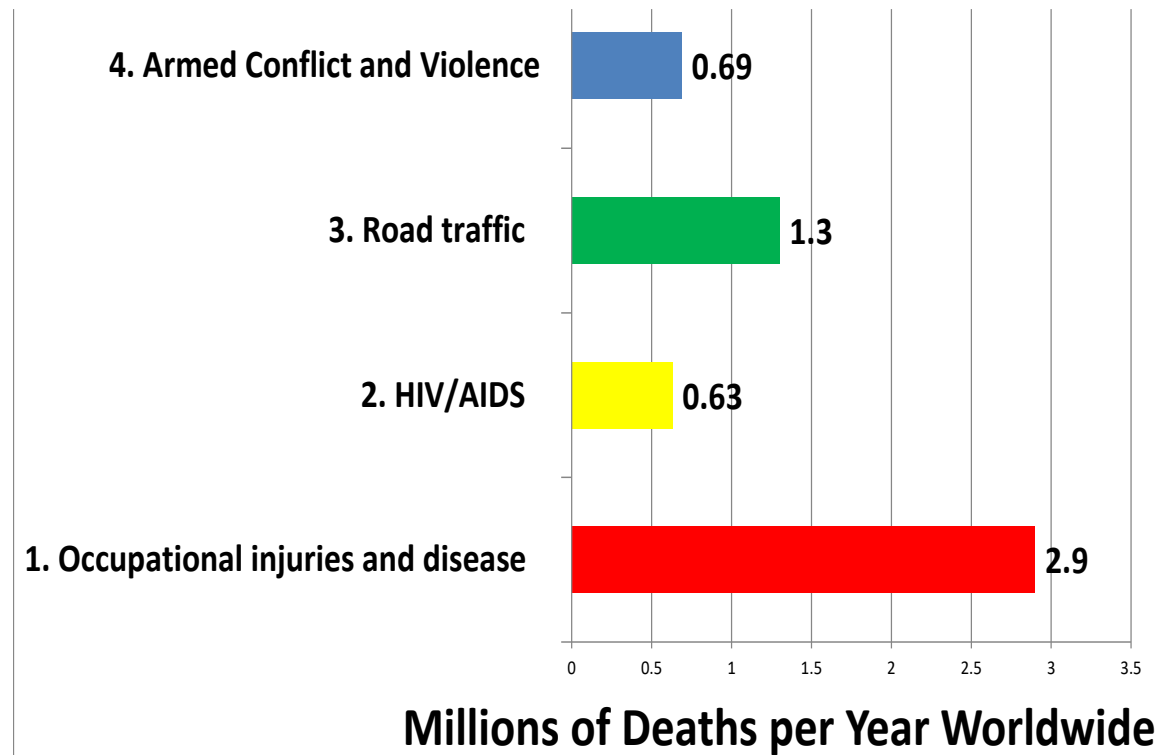
Global Occupational
Safety & Health Coalition

Advocacy for Global Occupational Health

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June 11, 2025

A Global Occupational Safety & Health (GOSH) Coalition of International OHS organizations, formed after ICOH 2024 conference

- ▶ Why? Recognition that occupational health and safety (OHS) does not get the global attention it warrants.
- ▶ The global toll of work-related injury and illness eclipses that of many other well-recognized problems
- ▶ Every year:
 - ▶ 2.9 million people die from work-related causes
 - ▶ Another 374 million workers are injured
 - ▶ Costs: over \$US 5 trillion: 6% of world's GDP



Premise: We are stronger together

- No funding or formal structure (yet) just the efforts of representatives of global organizations that meet about once a month
- Representatives of 19 OHS organizations have participated in GOSH meetings, including ICOH, IOHA, IOMSC, IEA, IOSH, INSHPO, WHWB
- We welcome and encourage new members!

Premise:
We are stronger
together

GOSH has:

- Issued a Call to Action on Global Worker Health, which includes:
 - ❑ Enhancing OHS targets in the Sustainable Development Goals, including
 - ❖ Basic Occupational Health Services for all, including informal workers
 - ❖ Better protection for young workers
 - ❖ Protection of workers from adverse effects of climate change
 - ❑ Re-activation of the Joint ILO/WHO Committee on Occupational Health
 - ❑ More support for OHS by financial aid programs, NGOs, financial institutions
- Also support implementation of ILO Conventions 155, 187 by all countries

Unified
action is
more
important
than ever ...



Recent cuts to global health
funding



WHO re-organization does
not prioritize OHS



Health Policy Watch
Independent Global Health Reporting

WHO To Shrink its Geneva Headquarters Down
to Just Four Programme Divisions

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/who-to-shrink-its-geneva-headquarters-down-to-just-four-divisions-with-health-systems-a-key-pillar/>

As a Coalition, we have

- ▶ Proposed new OHS-related SDG targets
- ▶ Been represented at the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum at the UN, where we submitted our call for incorporating OHS into SDGs
- ▶ Written to WHO to call for maintaining OHS staff and program
- ▶ Met with the Director of OHS for the ILO to offer our support

Together, we can oppose the consistent omission of OHS from global environmental and health policies.

Example: climate change

- ▶ SDGs on climate change don't mention OHS, even though the ILO says “every year at least 2.41 billion workers are exposed to excessive heat (i.e., over 70 per cent of all workers)” ¹
- ▶ The WHO just issued a draft climate change action plan that does not mention worker health. ²



These are the kind of
gaps we need to
close

¹ ILO, Ensuring safety and health and work in a changing climate, 2024

² WHO Climate change and health – draft action plan

What can we do together?

- ▶ Be persistent advocates for incorporating OHS into all policies and plans, at company, national and international levels
- ▶ Show that investing in OHS saves lives and costs, and must be integrated into all social, economic and health development¹
- ▶ Call on our respective governments to implement ILO OHS conventions

¹Lucchini & London, Global Occupational Health: Current Challenges and the Need for Urgent Action, 2014

What can we do together?

- ▶ Call on our governments to advocate for OHS at the UN, e.g. WHO to prioritize OHS, re-instate the Joint ILO/WHO OHS Committee, support OHS targets in SDGs
- ▶ Work to build OHS expertise and capacity where it is lacking -- training for occupational hygienists and physicians, e.g. as offered by GOSH organizations.

Bring your ideas to our discussion later in this webinar!



GOSH

Global Occupational
Safety & Health Coalition

For more information

email

workplacehealthwithoutborders@gmail.com

with “GOSH” in subject line

endorse the Call to Action and GOSH
priorities and/or join– fill out online
form

<https://forms.gle/nQMts1DJPp7M7tma6>

Resources

- ▶ GOSH material: briefing note, IOMSC advocacy toolkit, SDGs and OHS: in folder at this link:
- ▶ WHO - Climate change and health - Draft Global Action on Plan on Climate Change and Health. 15 May 2025.
https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA78/A78_4Add2-en.pdf
- ▶ ILO, Ensuring safety and health at work in a changing climate
https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/ILO_SafeDay24_Report_r11.pdf
- ▶ More climate change resources:
<https://app.box.com/s/lvxua88vyqmx3segvcgy2gqpiyh22vdw>
- ▶ Lucchini & London, Global Occupational Health: Current Challenges and the Need for Urgent Action, 2014
<https://iris.unibs.it/retrieve/handle/11379/463539/19925/Lucchini%26London%202014%20Global%20OHS.pdf>