

Glossary

This glossary has been produced to be of help to readers of this particular text. It has been compiled with the aid of a number of glossaries and dictionaries, and as such should not be considered to be an approved glossary of WHO.

- algal bloom:** abnormally increased biomass of algae in a lake, river or ocean.
- aliphatic hydrocarbons:** chemical compounds including carbon and hydrogen with a straight structure.
- aromatic hydrocarbons:** chemical compounds including carbon and hydrogen with a structure including at least one benzene ring.
- ascariasis:** disease caused by infection with *Ascaris* or related ascarid nematodes.
- ascites:** accumulation of serous fluid in the abdominal cavity.
- atherosclerosis:** a disease in which fat compounds build up on the inside of arteries, potentially blocking blood flow.
- atmosphere:** gaseous envelope that surrounds Earth and which is subdivided into the troposphere, stratosphere and mesosphere.
- attenuated vaccine:** vaccine based on live infectious material that has been treated in such a way that it creates an antibody response but does not cause the disease.
- attributable risk:** the proportion of a disease or other outcome in exposed individuals that can be attributed to the exposure of interest.
- biofuel:** renewable hydrocarbon fuel, usually alcohol, e.g. methanol, ethanol, derived from corn (maize) and other grains.
- “blackfoot disease”:** disease reported in China of the peripheral blood vessels which is caused by arsenic exposure. The disease constricts the arteries, the blood flow is diminished and the feet look black.
- chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs):** halocarbons that are major greenhouse gases. CFCs are of human origin and have long atmospheric lifetimes (more than 100 years). They are destroyed only by photolytic destruction in the stratosphere where they cause ozone depletion.
- coliform:** general, ill-defined term used to denote gram-negative, fermentative rods that inhabit the intestinal tract of man and other animals.
- copepod:** any member of the subclass Copepoda. (Copepoda are abundant, free-living, freshwater and marine crustaceans of fundamental importance to the aquatic food-chain in both marine and freshwater environments.)
- cor pulmonale:** in chronic cases characterized by hypertrophy of the right ventricle, resulting from disease of the lungs; in acute cases, characterized by dilation and failure of the right side of the heart due to pulmonary embolism.
- Cryptosporidium:** genus of coccidian sporozoans that are important pathogens of calves and other domestic animals, and common opportunistic parasites of humans that flourish under conditions of compromised immune function.
- cutaneous melanoma:** type of skin cancer. A melanoma is a malignant neoplasm, derived from cells that are capable of forming melanin.

- cyanobacterial poisoning:** reaction to the toxins produced by cyanobacteria.
- dengue fever:** disease of tropical and sub-tropical regions, caused by mosquito-transmitted dengue viruses.
- dracunculiasis:** also called guinea-worm disease, caused by a parasite whose larvae can grow under the skin, reaching up to one metre in length.
- El Niño:** name originally given by local inhabitants to a weak warm ocean current flowing along the coast of Ecuador and Peru. El Niño occurs irregularly, but approximately every four years on average.
- endemic disease:** the constant presence of a disease or infectious agent within a given geographic area or population group; may also refer to the usual prevalence of a given disease within such area or group.
- epidemic:** the occurrence in a community or region of cases of an illness, specific health-related behaviour or other health-related events clearly in excess of normal expectancy.
- erethism:** an abnormal state of excitement, irritation or sensitivity to stimulation, either general or local.
- eutrophication:** the occurrence of high nutrient levels in freshwater and marine ecosystems, usually resulting in excessive plant growth and the death of animal and some plant life due to oxygen deprivation
- filariasis:** presence of filariae in the body, occurring in tropical and sub-tropical regions.
- fluorosis:** condition caused by an excessive intake of fluorides, characterized mainly by mottling, staining, or hypoplasia of the enamel of the teeth.
- food security:** a situation in which all households have both physical and economic access to adequate food for all members and where households are not at risk of losing such access.
- free radical:** highly reactive chemical molecule that has at least one unpaired electron.
- greenhouse gas:** gas that absorbs radiation emitted by Earth's surface and clouds. The effect is a local trapping of part of the absorbed energy and a tendency to warm Earth's surface. Water vapour, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, and ozone are the primary greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere.
- half-life:** period during which the radioactivity of a radioactive substance decreases to half of its original value; similarly applied to the decrease in activity of any unstable active substance with time.
- halocarbons:** generic term to describe a group of human-made chemicals that contains carbon and members of the halogen family. Halocarbons include chlorofluorocarbons and halons, substances that deplete stratospheric ozone.
- halons:** various gaseous compounds of carbon, bromine and other halogens, usually bromofluoromethanes, used to extinguish fires, that contribute to destruction of stratospheric ozone.
- helminth:** intestinal vermiform parasite; primarily nematodes, cestodes, trematodes, and acanthocephalans.
- hepatomegaly:** enlargement of the liver.
- incidence:** the number of cases of illness commencing, or of persons falling ill, during a given time period within a specified population.
- Internet:** global computer network providing access to and dissemination of a vast amount of information.
- ionizing radiation:** electromagnetic or particle radiation of a sufficient energy to cause ionization in biological cells.
- isotope:** one of two or more nuclides that are chemically identical yet differ in mass number.

- Japanese encephalitis:** encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) caused by a mosquito-transmitted Flavivirus, affecting large populations in rice-growing, suburban, and rural regions of South-East Asia.
- keratosis:** any lesion on the epidermis marked by the presence of circumscribed overgrowths of the horny layer.
- leishmaniasis:** infection with a species of *Leishmania*; transmission is by various sandfly species of the genus *Phlebotomus* or *Lutzomyia*.
- leptospirosis:** illnesses caused by infection with *Leptospira*; transmission is associated with contact with infected animals or water contaminated with rat urine.
- manufacturing value added:** the difference between the value of goods and the cost of materials or supplies that are used in producing them. Value added is derived by subtracting the cost of raw materials, parts, supplies, fuel, goods purchased for resale, electric energy, and contract work from the value of shipments. It is the best money gauge of the relative economic importance of a manufacturing industry because it measures that industry's contribution to the economy rather than its gross sales.
- mesothelioma:** a cancer in the mesothelial tissues, usually in the lining of the lung.
- nuclide:** particular (atomic) nuclear species with defined atomic mass and number.
- oblast:** Russian word for "region".
- odds ratio:** epidemiological term used to express the relative risk of disease when comparing groups. It is the ratio of the odds of exposure among the cases of disease to the odds of exposure in the controls.
- oedema:** swelling caused by the accumulation of fluid in body tissues.
- onchocerciasis:** tropical disease caused by a filarial parasite transmitted by black-flies.
- ozone:** form of the element oxygen with three atoms instead of the two that characterize normal oxygen molecules. Ozone (O_3) is an important greenhouse gas. The stratosphere contains 90% of all the O_3 present in the atmosphere that absorbs harmful ultraviolet radiation.
- pH:** measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution, ranging from 0 (acidic) to 7 (neutral) to 14 (alkaline).
- parenchymal lung disease:** disease of lung due to its disfunction.
- peripheral neuropathy:** disease involving the peripheral nerves.
- peripheral vascular disease:** disease of the peripheral blood vessels
- pertussis:** commonly called whooping cough, caused by *Bordetella pertussis*.
- photovoltaic:** term applied to devices that creates electricity when exposed to light.
- "polluter pays" principle:** a system of charges on the person or company that cause pollution.
- primary health care:** essential health care made accessible at a cost the country and community can afford, with methods that are practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable.
- prevalence:** proportion of persons within a given population who are currently affected by a particular disease or risk factor.
- radiative forcing:** a simple measure of the importance of a potential climate change mechanism. The amount of perturbation of the energy balance of the Earth-atmosphere system following, for example, a change in carbon dioxide concentrations or a change in the output of the sun.
- radionuclide:** a nuclide of artificial or natural origin that exhibits radioactivity.
- radon:** radioactive element, resulting from the breakdown of radium.
- relative risk:** ratio of risk of occurrence of a disease in one group as compared to the risk of occurrence in another group.

- residual house-spraying:** spraying of the internal walls of houses with an insecticide in formulation and dose that ensures prolonged (i.e. residual) action.
- rotavirus:** wheel-shaped virus that causes infantile acute gastroenteritis and diarrhoea.
- schistosomiasis:** infection with species of *Schistosoma*. Manifestations of this disease vary with the infecting species.
- secondary (photochemical) pollutants:** air pollutants created by chemical reactions in the atmosphere from other pollutants that have been emitted from motor vehicles or industry.
- serotype:** group or category of bacteria or other microorganisms that have a certain set of antigens in common or against which common antibodies are produced; the combination of antigens by which such a group is categorized.
- stomatitis:** inflammation of the mucous membrane of the mouth.
- stratosphere:** highly stratified and stable region of the atmosphere above the troposphere extending from about 10 km to 50 km.
- subclinical:** without clinical manifestations; generally the early stage of an infection or other disease before symptoms and signs become clinically apparent.
- trachoma:** infectious inflammation of the eye, often associated with lack of water for personal hygiene.
- teratogenesis:** a process that damages the growth of the fetus *in utero*.
- trematode:** flat worm of the class *Trematoda*, including the parasitic worms called "flukes". Trematodes that cause disease in humans have intermediate stages in snails.
- troposphere:** lowest part of the atmosphere in which clouds and weather phenomena occur. The troposphere is defined as the region in which temperatures generally decrease with height.
- trypanosomiasis:** infection with protozoa, *Trypanosoma* including American trypanosomiasis (Chagas disease) or African trypanosomiasis.
- vibrio:** type of actively mobile bacteria. The species include the cholera vibrios, highly pathogenic for humans.
- zoonosis:** infectious disease of vertebrate animals, such as rabies, that can be transmitted to humans.

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Annex A

Country Groupings by Development and by Geographic Region

Country	Development level	WHO region	World Bank	UN region
Afghanistan	LDC	EMR	MEC	Asia
Albania	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Algeria	DCO	AFR	MEC	Africa
Andorra	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Angola	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Antigua and Barbuda	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Argentina	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Armenia	EIT	EUR	MEC	Asia
Australia	DME	WPR	EME	Oceania
Austria	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Azerbaijan	EIT	EUR	MEC	Asia
Bahamas	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Bahrain	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Bangladesh	LDC	SEAR	OAI	Asia
Barbados	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Belarus	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Belgium	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Belize	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Benin	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Bhutan	LDC	SEAR	OAI	Asia
Bolivia	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Bosnia and Herzegovina	DCO	EUR	FSE	Europe
Botswana	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Brazil	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Brunei Darussalam	DCO	WPR	OAI	Asia
Bulgaria	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Burkina Faso	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Burundi	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Cambodia	LDC	WPR	OAI	Asia
Cameroon	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Canada	DME	AMR	EME	Northern America
Cape Verde	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Central African Republic	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Chad	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Chile	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
China	DCO	WPR	CHINA	Asia
Colombia	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Comoros	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Congo	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Cook Islands	DCO	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Costa Rica	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Cote d'Ivoire	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Croatia	DCO	EUR	FSE	Europe
Cuba	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Cyprus	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Czech Republic	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Dem. Peo. Rep. of Korea	DCO	SEAR	OAI	Asia
Denmark	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Djibouti	LDC	EMR	SSA	Africa

Country	Development level	WHO region	World Bank	UN region
Dominica	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Dominican Republic	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Ecuador	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Egypt	DCO	EMR	MEC	Africa
El Salvador	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Equatorial Guinea	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Eritrea	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Estonia	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Ethiopia	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Fiji	DCO	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Finland	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
France	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Gabon	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Gambia	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Georgia	EIT	EUR	MEC	Asia
Germany	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Ghana	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Greece	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Grenada	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Guatemala	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Guinea	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Guinea-Bissau	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Guyana	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Haiti	LDC	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Honduras	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Hungary	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Iceland	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
India	DCO	SEAR	INDIA	Asia
Indonesia	DCO	SEAR	OAI	Asia
Iran	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Iraq	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Ireland	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Israel	DCO	EUR	MEC	Asia
Italy	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Jamaica	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Japan	DME	WPR	EME	Asia
Jordan	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Kazakhstan	EIT	EUR	MEC	Asia
Kenya	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Kiribati	LDC	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Kuwait	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Kyrgyzstan	EIT	EUR	MEC	Asia
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	LDC	WPR	OAI	Asia
Latvia	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Lebanon	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Lesotho	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Liberia	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	DCO	EMR	MEC	Africa
Lithuania	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Luxembourg	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Madagascar	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Malawi	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Malaysia	DCO	WPR	OAI	Asia
Maldives	LDC	SEAR	OAI	Asia
Mali	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Malta	DCO	EUR	MEC	Europe
Marshall Islands	DCO	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Mauritania	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Mauritius	DCO	AFR	OAI	Africa
Mexico	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Micronesia	DCO	WPR		Oceania
Monaco	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Mongolia	DCO	WPR	OAI	Asia

Country	Development level	WHO region	World Bank	UN region
Morocco	DCO	EMR	MEC	Africa
Mozambique	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Myanmar	LDC	SEAR	OAI	Asia
Namibia	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Nauru	DCO	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Nepal	LDC	SEAR	OAI	Asia
Netherlands	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
New Zealand	DME	WPR	EME	Oceania
Nicaragua	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Niger	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Nigeria	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Niue	DCO	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Norway	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Oman	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Pakistan	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Palau	DCO	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Panama	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Papua New Guinea	DCO	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Paraguay	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Peru	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Philippines	DCO	WPR	OAI	Asia
Poland	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Portugal	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Puerto Rico *	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Qatar	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Republic of Korea	DCO	WPR	OAI	Asia
Republic of Moldova	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Romania	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Russian Federation	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Rwanda	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Saint Kitts and Nevis	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Saint Lucia	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Samoa	LDC	WPR	OAI	Oceania
San Marino	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Sao Tome and Principe	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Saudi Arabia	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Senegal	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Seychelles	DCO	AFR	OAI	Africa
Sierra Leone	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Singapore	DCO	WPR	OAI	Asia
Slovakia	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
Slovenia	DCO	EUR	FSE	Europe
Solomon Islands	LDC	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Somalia	LDC	EMR	SSA	Africa
South Africa	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Spain	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Sri Lanka	DCO	SEAR	OAI	Asia
Sudan	LDC	EMR	SSA	Africa
Suriname	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Swaziland	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa
Sweden	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Switzerland	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
Syrian Arab Republic	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
Tajikistan	EIT	EUR	MEC	Asia
Thailand	DCO	SEAR	OAI	Asia
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	DCO	EUR	FSE	Europe
Togo	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Tokelau *	DCO	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Tonga	DCO	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Trinidad and Tobago	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Tunisia	DCO	EMR	MEC	Africa

Country	Development level	WHO region	World Bank	UN region
Turkey	DCO	EUR	FSE	Asia
Turkmenistan	EIT	EUR	MEC	Asia
Tuvalu	LDC	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Uganda	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Ukraine	EIT	EUR	FSE	Europe
United Arab Emirates	DCO	EMR	MEC	Asia
United Kingdom	DME	EUR	EME	Europe
United Rep. of Tanzania	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
United States of America	DME	AMR	EME	Northern America
Uruguay	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Uzbekistan	EIT	EUR	MEC	Asia
Vanuatu	LDC	WPR	OAI	Oceania
Venezuela	DCO	AMR	LAC	Latin America
Viet Nam	DCO	WPR	OAI	Asia
Yemen	LDC	EMR	MEC	Asia
Yugoslavia	DCO	EUR	FSE	Europe
Zaire	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Zambia	LDC	AFR	SSA	Africa
Zimbabwe	DCO	AFR	SSA	Africa

**WHO associate member*

Abbreviations:

UN Classification by Development Level:

DCO = developing countries other than LDC

DME = developed market economies

EIT = economies in transition

LDC = least developed countries

WHO Regions (based on geography):

AFR = Region for Africa

AMR = Region for the Americas

EMR = Region for the Eastern Mediterranean

EUR = Region for Europe

SEAR = Region for South-East Asia

WPR = Region for the Western Pacific

World Bank Regions (based on development level and geography):

EME = established market economies

FSE = formerly socialist economies of Europe

LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean

MEC = Middle Eastern Crescent

OAI = Other Asia and islands

SSA = sub-Saharan Africa

CHI = China

IND = India

UN Regions (based on geography):

Africa

Asia

Europe

Latin America

North America

Oceania

Annex B

Countries Providing Data for WHO/UNICEF (1996a)

Africa (38 countries)

Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia.

Asia & Pacific (23 countries)

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Niue, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vietnam.

West Asia (5 countries)

Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Syrian Arab Republic.

Latin America & Caribbean (18 countries)

Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Venezuela.