



## Research partnerships and collaborations helping to address the sustainable development goals

Below is an example demonstrating our response to Target 11.6:

*By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management*

Air pollution is the most important environmental risk factor to global health: The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that 4.2 million deaths annually can be attributed to outdoor air pollution and that 91% of the world's population are exposed to harmful air. Innovative work at Exeter in developing DIMAQ, the Data Integration Model for Air Quality, has enabled the provision of vital data to the WHO and is enabling countries around the world to understand their particular issues with air pollution. For the first time, DIMAQ gives the WHO access to accurate information on population-exposures to fine particulate matter air pollution for every country, even those for which there are no recognised monitoring networks. DIMAQ data is driving implementation and monitoring progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). DIMAQ is not only performing health analysis and improving understanding on a global scale, but it's also enabling individual countries to develop, adopt and implement policy interventions designed to reduce air pollution, and to save lives.

At the First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health: *Improving Air Quality, Combatting Climate Change – Saving Lives*, the Exeter team presented the results from DIMAQ and ran a workshop for representatives of member states, leaders from national and city governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, research and academia. Participants agreed an aspiration goal of reducing the number of deaths from air pollution by two thirds by 2030, which would represent nearly 5 million premature deaths saved each year and a reduction in the estimated economic impact of premature deaths, estimated to be 4.4% of global GDP. At the conference more than 70 commitments were announced by individual countries, cities, UN organisations, intergovernmental organisations and civil society to tackle air pollution and achieve this goal. Many of these are already being implemented in national policies. Mongolia has banned household raw coal burning in the capital city Ulaanbataar. The Netherlands Climate Act (2019) is enshrining in law that only new zero emission vehicles will be sold from 2030. Monaco is banning the use of heavy fuel oil in old buildings from 2022. Albania is committed to ensuring 70% of all new transport investment will be for walking and cycling networks and 100% of the taxis will be electric by 2025. **DIMAQ data also provides the information for the interactive website BreatheLife which allows people to see the air pollution levels in their cities and get involved in the drive for cleaner air and directly contributing to the 11.6.2 SDG indicator.** The BreatheLife campaign is a WHO, UNEP, Climate & Clean Air Coalition and World Bank initiative.