



National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

Global goals set by the United Nations

In 2015, all 193 member states of the United Nations ratified seventeen sustainable development goals for the world. These goals aim to end poverty, combat inequality and protect our planet's climate by 2030. The UN calls on everyone to do their part in achieving the goals: governments, individual citizens, and the private sector. RIVM is contributing to the majority of the global goals, but particularly to the eight highlighted below. We play our part in many different ways: ranging from carrying out independent scientific research, to supporting Healthy Schools and Healthy Neighbourhood initiatives, or managing the National Immunisation Programme. Committed as we are to *health and health services* for world citizens, our activities contribute to generating knowledge and integrating that knowledge in the areas of public health, the human environment, and the natural environment. This places us at the heart of a sustainable society, in the Netherlands and throughout the world.



Research on healthy nutrition and safe, sustainable food.

- Tackling obesity: half of the Dutch population is overweight.
- Research on safe, healthy and sustainable diets: RIVM report 'What is on our plate?'
- European PROMISS project: aims to better understand and prevent malnutrition in older people, thus promoting active and healthy ageing.



Promoting public health in a healthy environment.

- Health and well-being for everyone: promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Infectious disease control and prevention (National Immunisation Programme).
- Prevention and population screening programmes.



Knowledge about safe water and health.

- Research on chemical and microbial water quality in drinking water, wastewater and bodies of water used for recreational purposes.
- Supporting drinking water companies and the government with risk-based assessment and monitoring.
- International capacity building: water quality monitoring and management in conjunction with the WHO and the UN (e.g. Protocol on Water and Health).



Improving urban health and quality of life by addressing the role of soil, water and green spaces in relation to health and well-being in cities in the Netherlands and Europe.

- Using green spaces and water as heat buffers in a changing climate.
- Designing attractive urban areas, people living in cities are encouraged to be more active and stay connected to each other.
- Monitoring air quality and work on solutions to reduce air pollution.



Socially responsible consumption habits and re-use of waste products (circular economy).

- Our research on reducing "substances of very high concern" in clothing aims to make those garments safe to wear and wash, easier to recycle, as well as improving working conditions and mitigating environmental impact in production countries.
- Mapping Dutch dietary habits in relation to environmental burden and general health, offering policy recommendations for nutritional choices.



Mitigating climate change and its effects.

- Research on the impact of climate change on health and the environment.
- Formulating measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Co-founder of the Netherlands Consortium on Climate Change Adaptation.
- Advising role as regards the National Adaptation Strategy for Climate Change in the fields of health and the environment.



Advancing knowledge about natural capital, ecosystem services and biodiversity.

- Research focus on 'green and blue spaces' and their significance for the health and wellbeing of people and the environment.
- Knowledge sharing and method development for the assessment of ecosystem services, biodiversity and their significance for society.
- Harnessing nature-based solutions and contributing to the 2020 biodiversity strategy of the European Union.



Collecting, compiling and sharing knowledge; developing more partnerships to support the sustainable development goals.

- Projects for safe, sustainable cities in partnership with local authorities, as well as internationally through European projects.
- Working with other national and international institutes and partners on capacity building for Global Health: health and health services for all world citizens.
- Through collaboration with UN organisations including WHO (RIVM hosts 9 WHO Collaborating Centres) and within EU frameworks, we contribute to achieving the SDGs worldwide.