

Table 2 Analysis of major environmental health-related issues

Variable	Study/survey conducted by	Main focus	Key findings	Gaps	Source
Water safety	Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR); Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA); National Institute of Health (NIH)	Water quality sampling and analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of samples analysed, were unsafe for human consumption Arsenic, cyanide, fluorides and nitrates exceeded WHO guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very limited linkages made to health/diseases Very limited regular surveillance and monitoring programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCRWR surveys, 2005-06; NIH survey, 2005; www.moenv.gov.pk
Health care waste	Ministry of Health (MOH); Health Services Academy (HAS); Pak-EPA	Injections and syringes disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 million people exposed to hepatitis B and hepatitis C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsafe disposal Noncompliance to guidelines Lack of adequate facilities in hospitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSA annual report, 2008 www.moenv.gov.pk MOH hepatitis control and prevention programme, 2005 National health policy, 2009 (draft)
Air pollution (outdoor and indoor)	Pak-EPA; World Health Organization (WHO)	Air quality sampling and analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Particulates (i.e. PM10 and PM2.5) exceeds WHO guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very limited linkages made to health/diseases Lack of enforcement of regulations Lack of technical and financial resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.moenv.gov.pk WHO report, 2002
Food safety	NIH; World Health Organization	Monitoring of outbreaks and epidemics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43% of outbreaks were foodborne and waterborne 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improperly prepared, stored and handled food Absence of application of HACCP approach No national food strategy Lack of technical and financial resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIH, Epidemic investigation cell report, 2003 www.who.int/foodsafety

HACCP = hazard analysis critical control points.