

The world isn't child-proof

Poor children were never safe; now the rich ones face new threats

► **Ten million** children **under** the age of **five** **die** every year, **98 per cent** of whom are in the **developing world**. Over **three million** die due to **environment-related illnesses**

► **Acute respiratory infection**, caused by indoor air pollution, **kills over one million children every year**. Average concentration of PM10 is around 3,000 microgrammes per cubic metre in a hut with open fire

Immortal truth

Child mortality is higher in underdeveloped countries



► **Malaria** killed 0.978 million children under five in Africa in 2002. The disease **costs Africa US \$12 billion each year**; a part of this amount can control it

► Food-borne pathogens cause 70 per cent of diarrhoea in children

► In Bangladesh, millions of children drink arsenic contaminated water, exposing them to cancer

► **Children under age five** constitute **10 per cent** of **world population** but are **vulnerable to 40 per cent** of all **environment-related diseases**

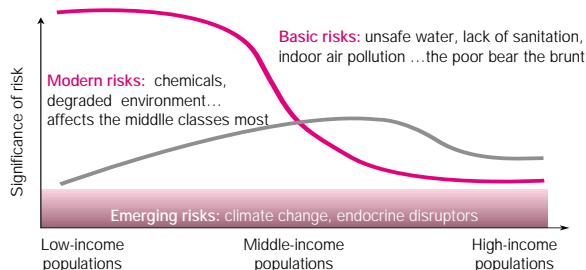
► This risk is increasing — **35 per cent** of **Africa's children** are at a **greater risk** of dying than they were ten years ago

► Unsafe water, poor sanitation, malaria and indoor air pollution are the main reasons for childhood deaths. **New risks include lead poisoning, pesticide residues in food and water and environment change**

► **0.627 million children** under age five died of diarrhoea in **Africa** in 2000. **Piped water and sanitation** can **save 0.434 million** of them

Wealth is health

Only the very rich are safe



58 per cent children in Southeast Asia and Europe are exposed to tobacco smoke at home

Newborn children are exposed to toxic chemicals such as PCBs, dioxins and dibenzofurans through their mothers. These disrupt their endocrine systems

Around 21.9 per cent of African American children in older houses are poisoned by lead compared with 2.2 per cent American children

More than 25,000 children below the age of 17 die of occupational injuries. Poisoning kills 5.9 children per 100,000 in Africa but only 0.3 per 100,000 in the Americas