Pollution jeopardizes valuable soil ecosystem services.
Human activities are the main sources of soil pollution

**INDUSTRIAL**
Around 50,000–100,000 chemicals are now commercially produced on a large scale and their production is projected to increase by 3.4% yearly until 2030

**AGRICULTURE**
The agrochemicals market is increasing by 3.2% every year. 58% of agricultural soils in Europe have residues of multiple pesticides, half of them are now illegal

**MINING**
About 4 billion people live in the 56 biggest mineral-producing countries. Due to soil pollution, agricultural productivity in mining areas decreases by 40% relative to areas farther

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**
Expanding cities are producing an ever-growing amount of municipal solid waste. 80% of our waste is not being recycled and ends up in landfills, contaminating our soils

**TRANSPORT**
The number of cars worldwide will nearly double by 2040. Highways are major, open and dynamic sources of contaminants such as heavy metals and toxic organic pollutants that present a risk to adjacent agricultural soils and urban areas
Soils act as a sponge and filter for contaminants. But when soils are overloaded, these contaminants can be released:

**ENVIRONMENT**
7 tablespoons of lead can contaminate up to 1 ha of soil or 200 thousand litres of water.

**FOOD**
Plants may absorb contaminants through their roots, producing unsafe food. 1 in 10 people in the world fall ill after eating contaminated food and 420,000 die every year.

**HUMAN HEALTH**
More than 70% of the pollutants are carcinogenic.
BUT NOT EVERYTHING IS LOST
ACTION CAN BE TAKEN NOW

**INDUSTRIES**
Promote environmentally friendly industrial processes

**AGRICULTURE**
Adopt sustainable soil management practices

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**
Reduce waste and recycle & reuse goods

**MINING**
Include restoration measures in the mining plan

**GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESSES**

**TRANSPORT**
Promote and use sustainable transport

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

**AWARENESS**
Spread the word on the causes and impacts

**BUT NOT EVERYTHING IS LOST**
ACTION CAN BE TAKEN NOW
Preventing soil pollution and maintaining soil health are crucial in achieving most of the SDGs.