



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – THE BELÉM HEALTH ACTION PLAN FOR THE ADAPTATION OF THE HEALTH SECTOR TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Background:

Climate change is one of the most urgent global health challenges of the 21st century, as a growing body of scientific evidence shows. Its impacts are already placing significant strain on health systems worldwide and disproportionately affecting developing countries and vulnerable populations.

In this context, there is an urgent need to foster collective action and strengthen governance mechanisms so that health systems are equipped to prevent, detect, and respond to the growing challenges posed by climate change. It is essential to mobilize resources for initiatives dedicated to safeguarding and promoting human health.

In this context, COP30 is calling for action. More than just a space for diplomatic negotiations, Brazil is leading the construction of a robust action agenda aimed at implementing solutions. This agenda is structured around six axes and thirty strategic objectives that guide the global response to the challenges posed by the climate crisis and support collective progress towards the 2028 Global Stocktake. The health sector has interfaces with all axes; however, it is mainly addressed by Objective 16 “promoting resilient health systems” of the Axis 5: “Fostering Human and Social Development”.

Achieving this objective requires a committed and coordinated approach to climate and health adaptation, guided by detailed priority measures embodied in **the Belém Health Action Plan (BHAP)**. The BHAP serves as an integrating umbrella for adaptation solutions encompassing health surveillance, technological innovation, and the strengthening of multisectoral policies. It builds on previous international commitments that increasingly recognize the link between health and climate change through the UNFCCC and its COP processes, and those adopted by the World Health Assembly, among others.

Main objective:

The BHAP aims to strengthen the health sector’s adaptation and resilience to climate change by enhancing surveillance and monitoring, building capacities, promoting evidence-based and participatory policies, and fostering innovation and sustainable production, while recognizing diverse national contexts and the co-benefits for health and mitigation.

Global Target of the Plan:

Strengthen the health sector’s adaptation and resilience to climate change by advancing integrated surveillance and monitoring systems, accelerating capacity-building, promoting evidence-based policy implementation, and fostering innovation and sustainable production. This Plan considers the diverse needs and national contexts of health systems worldwide and recognizes the importance of cross-sector collaboration to accelerate mitigation efforts that generate health co-benefits.

How to endorse or express one’s support for the BHAP

A. UNFCCC Parties and International Organizations: The Belém Health Action Plan welcomes endorsements from UNFCCC Parties and International Organizations by sending a formal note verbale to the Brazilian Embassy in your country, with a copy to





[<aai@saude.gov.br>](mailto:aai@saude.gov.br), preferably by 3 November 2025. Endorsements received after this date will still be gratefully accepted;

B. Non-state climate and health stakeholders: The Belém Health Action Plan welcomes statements of support and commitment from non-state actors and other stakeholders engaged at the climate-health interface, to be submitted by official letter to [<aai@saude.gov.br>](mailto:aai@saude.gov.br), preferably by November 3, 2025. Statements received after this date will still be gratefully accepted.

Structure: The Belém Health Action Plan is structured around two priority cross-cutting principles and three lines of action:

Cross-cutting Principles:

i. Enhancing Health Equity and 'Climate Justice':

Adaptation measures must address health inequities and inequalities, which are exacerbated by climate change, and also note the importance of 'climate justice' when taking action to address climate change. While these concepts are used in different ways across contexts and communities, in this document adaptation measures for the health sector must consider the fair allocation of burdens and benefits among individuals, nations, and generations, particularly in promoting equitable access to health care and services; inclusive participation in decision-making; and recognition, which entails basic respect, robust engagement, and fair consideration of diverse cultures and perspectives.

ii. Leadership and Governance on Climate and Health with Social Participation:

The implementation of adaptation policies must be guided by principles of accountability, transparency, and oversight, within countries, adapted to their national circumstances and structures. The Plan advocates for full, equitable, and bottom-up approaches that ensure the active participation of civil society, particularly representatives of the most affected peoples and communities, in all stages of policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation, through both consultative and deliberative mechanisms. These processes should include the voices of those in vulnerable situations and facing structural, environmental, or health-related disadvantages.

Lines of Action and Proposed Measures for the Adaptation and Development of Climate-Resilient Health Systems:

- **Action Line 1. Surveillance and monitoring:** Implement and strengthen climate-informed health surveillance and monitoring systems that are integrated, interoperable, inclusive, and participatory, taking into account the needs of populations in situations of vulnerability. Establish mechanisms for continuous evaluation and refinement to ensure these systems can detect both extreme events and the gradual impacts of climate change, and provide real-time data to inform early warning and response actions. Enhance epidemiological and environmental monitoring capacities to support evidence-based measures that prevent or reduce climate-related health impacts, in line with global health adaptation commitments.
- **Action Line 2. Evidence-based policy strategy and capacity-building:** Strengthen national and local capacities and accelerate the implementation of





evidence-based policies and solutions through multidisciplinary, intersectoral, and participatory approaches, taking into account health equity, 'climate justice', and inclusive governance with the active involvement of relevant groups such as Indigenous peoples, traditional and local communities, and civil society at all stages of policymaking and decision-making.

- **Action Line 3. Innovation, Production and Digital Health:** Foster research, development, application of, and equitable access to innovative technologies and approaches that effectively meet the health needs of diverse populations. Enhance the resilience and sustainability of the essential health products manufacturing and supply chain by climate-proofing infrastructure, equipment, supplies, and services, including by integrating digital solutions and climate-smart health innovations.

To support this Action Plan, Brazil is also developing two complementary documents to be launched during COP30:

- **A Synthesis of Evidence on Public Policies for Climate and Health:** A document summarizing the best available scientific evidence and no-regrets actions to support the implementation of the Action Plan, including public policy recommendations.
- **A Synthesis Report on Social Participation in Climate and Health Adaptation:** A documentary review highlighting relevant experiences, lessons learned, and strategies to strengthen participatory processes, with a focus on Black, Indigenous, local, and traditional communities.

All these documents are being developed through a participatory process, with several in-person consultations, and a Global Conference on Climate and Health held in July 2025, on the road to COP30.

The plan includes sections on **Governance and Coordination Mechanisms, Monitoring and Accountability Cycle, Social Participation and Transparency**, which outline the composition and mandate of the BHAP Oversight Commission and its Secretariat, as well as the establishment of guidelines for periodic reporting, implementation, and participatory and consultative spaces.

The Belém Health Action Plan calls for a global **collective effort for health**. It seeks voluntary adoption by endorsement from the UNFCCC Parties and support from international organizations, civil society, and non-state actors. In essence, it is a call to action — a true joint effort by the health sector to save lives and ensure a healthy future for all.

