WHO country support on climate change and health
Focus areas for climate change and health

- **Climate-resilient and sustainable health**
  - Addressing the wide range of health impacts of climate change
  - Promoting the health co-benefits of climate change mitigation in other sectors

- **Strengthening the climate resilience and decarbonisation of health systems and facilities**
The Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), convened by the UK, Egypt and UAE as COP26, COP27 and COP28 Presidencies, is a WHO-hosted platform bringing together countries and key partners to advance climate change and health implementation at national level.

**ATACH functions**

- **Deliver international shift** on priority issues, through collective power of Member States and key stakeholders
- **Quality assurance**, to ensure assessments, plans and implementation are of a high standard required to deliver on commitments
- **Monitoring**, to collect data on country level progress against commitments
- **Financing**, to identify financing needs and support Member States to access financing in a timely and sustainable way
- **Knowledge sharing and coordinating access to technical assistance**

**ATACH working groups**

Using the collective power of countries, partners and other stakeholders, ATACH is driving this agenda forward at pace and scale. Five working groups provide technical support in key areas:

- **Climate Resilient Health Systems Working Group (CRHS-WG)**
  - Cote D'Ivoire
  - Health Canada
- **Low Carbon Sustainable Health Systems Working Group (LCSHS-WG)**
  - Lao PDR
  - Health Care Without Harm
- **Financing Working Group (FIN-WG)**
  - Germany
  - World Bank
- **Supply Chain Working Group (SC-WG)**
  - Bangladesh
  - NHS England
- **Climate Action and Nutrition Working Group (I-CAN-WG)**
  - Egypt
  - Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Join the ATACH
### Key questions underpinning WHO support to countries’ climate change and health efforts

**Question 1:** What are the impacts of climate change on health, opportunities for the health sector to decarbonise, and the potential health co-benefits of climate change mitigation?

**Question 2:** How do we develop comprehensive plans and strategies to address climate-sensitive health risks and build climate resilient and low carbon health systems and facilities?

**Question 3:** How do we access climate financing for climate change and health, including the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund?

**Question 4:** What interventions can be implemented to address climate-sensitive health risks and strengthen the resilience and decarbonisation of health systems and facilities?

**Question 5:** How do we monitor progress made at national level on climate change and health?
Building climate-resilient and sustainable health

This document aims to help users navigate the climate change and health technical support package offered by the World Health Organization. It is structured around five key areas of support and explains what tools, resources, and assistance are available.

1. Assessing health risks, GHG emissions, and co-benefits

Assessing health vulnerability to climate change at population and facility level and GHG emissions of the health system, and understanding the potential health co-benefits of climate action will provide the required evidence to protect and promote health in a changing climate.

2. Climate change and health planning

Through comprehensive and systematic climate change and health planning, countries can identify required interventions to address climate-sensitive health risks and strengthen decarbonisation at population, health system and facility levels.

3. Financing climate change and health

Climate change financing, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund, can be accessed to strengthen the climate resilience and decarbonisation of health systems and facilities and to promote the health co-benefits of mitigation across multiple sectors.

4. Implementing climate change and health interventions

A wide range of interventions and tools are available to support countries in their efforts to strengthen the climate resilience and decarbonisation of health systems and facilities.

5. Monitoring climate change and health progress

Regular monitoring of national health sector response to climate change highlights the progress made towards strengthening the resilience and decarbonisation of health systems while identifying priority areas for improvement.
**Question 1:** What are the impacts of climate change on health, opportunities for the health sector to decarbonise, and the potential health co-benefits of climate change mitigation?

WHO supports countries in **assessing** the health risks of climate change, the GHG emissions from the health sector, and the health co-benefits of climate change mitigation. Some available tools include:

- **Assessing climate change and health vulnerabilities**
  Provides information for decision-makers on the extent and magnitude of likely health risks attributable to climate change and identifies options for increasing health system resilience.

- **Assessing climate change vulnerabilities in healthcare facilities**
  Support countries in understanding vulnerability to specific climate-related hazards and establishing a baseline for resilience.

- **Estimating and managing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from health systems and facilities**
  Several tools can help health system and facility managers to estimate GHG emissions and identify priority areas of action.

- **Assessments of health co-benefits of climate change mitigation**
  Estimates the potential health implications of national climate policies, e.g. outdoor and household air pollution, sustainable and active transport, sustainable food systems and green urban spaces.
Question 2: How do we develop comprehensive plans and strategies to address climate-sensitive health risks and build climate resilient and low carbon health systems and facilities?

WHO assists countries with climate change and health planning to address climate-related health risks, strengthen the climate resilience and decarbonisation of health systems and facilities, and promote health co-benefits of mitigation. Relevant plans include:

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
Reflects countries’ ambition towards achieving the goals laid out in the Paris Agreement through mitigation and adaptation targets and activities. The development of health-promoting climate targets and policies provides an opportunity for increased climate ambition and improved population health.

Health National Adaptation Plans (HNAPs)
Led by the Ministry of Health, as part of the UNFCCC National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, a HNAP sets out a comprehensive set of actions for medium- and long-term climate change adaptation planning for health.
The WHO Operational Framework provides a structure to guide countries in developing plans or designing interventions for strengthening the resilience and decarbonisation of health systems.
Question 3: How do we access climate financing for climate change and health, including the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund?

In addition to bi-lateral funding, various funds have been established to help countries in their adaptation and mitigation actions. WHO supports countries to develop single- and multi-country project proposals to access climate financing for health.

**Resources for Climate Change Financing**
Key climate change funding streams include the Adaptation Fund (AF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

**WHO as a GCF Readiness Delivery Partner**
As a GCF Readiness Delivery Partner WHO can support countries to access to GCF Readiness funds for health. The GCF Readiness Programme offers funding to support health adaptation planning, assessments, and institutional strengthening.

**WHO as an accredited Adaptation Fund Delivery Partner**
WHO can support countries to access funding for projects/programmes which address health adaptation or resilience challenges.
**Question 4:** What interventions can be implemented to address climate-sensitive health risks and strengthen the resilience and low carbon sustainability of health systems and facilities?

Priority climate change and health interventions may differ depending on the country context. WHO provides technical support for the implementation of a comprehensive set of interventions to strengthen health systems’ resilience and decarbonisation, such as:

- Climate-informed health surveillance and early warning system
- Climate-resilient water and sanitation safety plans
- Climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities

Priority climate change and health interventions may differ depending on the country context. WHO provides technical support for the implementation of a comprehensive set of interventions to strengthen health systems’ resilience and decarbonisation, such as:
Climate-resilient water and sanitation safety plans
Guidance and technical support on risk assessment and management approaches to address the health impacts of climate change via water and sanitation are available.

- Climate-resilient water safety plans [View]
- Discussion paper: climate, sanitation and health [View]

Climate-informed health surveillance and early warning system
Guidance, quality criteria, and technical support on climate services for health and climate-informed health early warning systems is provided, including for heat, vector-borne, and water-borne diseases.

- Integrated surveillance and climate-informed health early warning systems [View]

Gender considerations for climate change and health
Climate change effects can distributed differently based on gender norms, roles and relations. Guidance and technical support are available to embed gender considerations in climate change and health interventions.

- Mainstreaming gender in health adaptation to climate change programmes [View]
- Gender, climate change and health [View]

Climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities
Guidance and technical support are available to support countries designing interventions to strengthen the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of health care facilities.

- Climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities [View]
Question 5: How do we monitor progress made at national level on climate change and health?

To assist in monitoring progress made on climate change and health at a national and global level WHO utilizes two key initiatives, the WHO Health and Climate Change Global Survey and the WHO UNFCCC Health and Climate Change Country Profiles. Guidance is also available to support countries measuring climate resilience in health systems.

**WHO Health and Climate Change Global Survey**
measures and monitors health sector response to climate change. The survey is completed by national health authorities in collaboration with other relevant ministries and stakeholders.

**WHO UNFCCC Health and Climate Change Country Profiles**
are developed in collaboration with national health authorities and health stakeholders. The profiles present evidence on:

- current and future climate hazards
- health risks
- potential health co-benefits of mitigation
Capacity building for climate change and health

WHO and ATACH partners have developed a range of online and face-to-face training resources to build capacity in climate change and health.

**WHO: Climate Change and Health Face-to-Face training package**

Coming soon →

**WHO Academy: Climate change and health programme**

View →

**Climate change negotiations and health online course**

View →

**ATACH Community of Practice: Climate change and health capacity building resources**

View →

**WHO climate change and health: Technical Webinar Series**

Coming soon
For more information contact:

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health (ECH)
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Email: atach@who.int

atachcommunity.com
climahealth.info
who.int/health-topics/climate-change