

Strategic plan for the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health (2025-2030)



**HEALTHY PEOPLE
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
HEALTHY PLANET**

Strategic plan for the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health (2025-2030)



**World Health
Organization**

Western Pacific Region



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Regional Director's Message

Growing up in the Pacific, I have witnessed firsthand the resilience of communities and the delicate balance of the environment on which they rely. As a boy living on a small island in Tonga, the ocean was our playground, backyard and way of life.

Today, rising sea levels, worsening storms and environmental degradation threaten that way of life more than ever before — not just in Tonga, but across the wider Western Pacific Region and many other parts of the world.

As a clinician and former Minister for Health, I understand the urgency of leading a national response to these growing health threats. Every moment counts. Every dollar matters. And every decision has immediate and long-term impacts for the people we serve. My experiences have instilled in me a profound sense of urgency to address the multiple crises we face at the intersection of climate, environment and health.

The health impacts of climate change are no longer distant threats. They are here, escalating and disproportionately harming those least responsible. The time for incremental change is over. We must act now. And we must work together.

This five-year strategy from the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region – which operates under the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific – is more than a road map. It is a rallying cry.

The strategy presents a powerful vision for transformation, rooted in evidence and equity, supported by the principles of multilateralism, and grounded in the everyday realities of the Region's 38 countries and areas. The Strategy advocates integrated, systems-based approaches to build resilient health systems, healthier cities and island communities, and sustainable food systems.

The English poet John Donne wrote 400 years ago that “no man is an island.”

His words still ring true. But today environmental health issues and their impact defy borders, often

disproportionately harming the people and places least responsible for their creation. The threat is existential for some islands, to the point that now *no island is an island* when it comes to its ability to dodge environmental threats.

I am proud of this ambitious plan and invite all stakeholders to join us as we work towards a healthier, more just and sustainable future for the Western Pacific Region. Our work in the Region – which bears a disproportionate burden of global climate and health challenges – will ultimately serve as a model for other regions.



A blue ink signature of Dr. Saia Ma'u Piukala, written in a stylized, cursive script.

Dr Saia Ma'u Piukala

Regional Director for the Western Pacific
World Health Organization

Director's Message

Across the Western Pacific Region, the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation are already disrupting lives and livelihoods. From severe air pollution and rising heat to food and water insecurity, the health of millions is at risk — and the pressures are growing.

This strategy sets a clear and practical path for the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health over the next five years — focused on supporting countries to act at the intersection of health, environment and climate. At its core are three ambitions: strengthening health systems; creating healthier cities and island environments; and transforming food systems.

This strategy is not just about what to do, it is about how to do it. The strategy is anchored in the priorities of the Region's 38 countries and areas. WHO country offices serve on the front lines of this work, supported by evidence, tools, technical expertise and international partnerships. This strategy is built to make implementation efficient. It focuses on enabling action in hospitals, communities, coastal towns and islands, and food systems – where it matters most.

The strategy draws on the Region's extraordinary diversity, innovation and leadership, and reflects the shared commitment of WHO and Member States to build healthier, more climate-resilient futures. The road ahead will not be easy, but the opportunity is real. With pooled ambition and shared work, lasting impacts can be achieved.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Demaio'.

Dr Sandro Demaio

Director and Head
WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and
Health in the Western Pacific Region

Strategy overview



The health impacts of climate change are no longer a distant threat. They are being felt here and now and becoming more extreme.

To address these threats, the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region (ACE) was established in 2019 through a partnership with the Seoul Metropolitan Government, the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment of the Republic of Korea and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Centre's mission is to strengthen cooperation and drive action where environment and health meet. This focus on environmental health has created a strong foundation for system-wide change. This strategic plan builds directly on that work.

Over the next five years, the Centre will expand its reach, supporting countries to take practical, systems-based action that ensures healthier people, healthier environments and a healthier planet.

The need for a strategy

Rising seas are already forcing communities in the Region to relocate, with extreme weather events displacing more than 40 million people worldwide each year.

In 2022, weather-related hazards forced 32 million people into internal displacement globally – an increase of 41% compared to 2008 levels. Global sea levels have risen about 23 cm since 1901, including nearly 10 cm in the past 25 years, with the rate of rise more than doubling from 2.3 mm/year in the 1990s to 4.7 mm/year over the past decade. In the Western Pacific, the rise is even sharper at 10–15 cm since 1993 – nearly twice the global average.

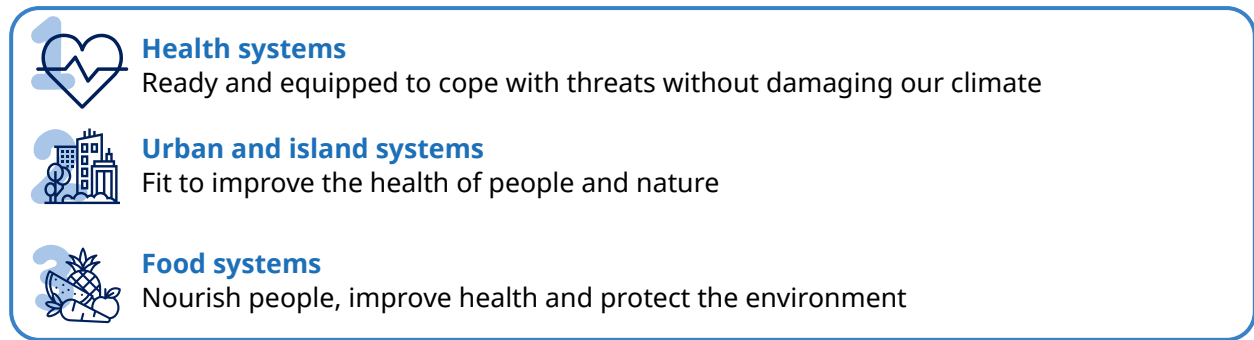
The environment is increasingly shaping human health outcomes in profound ways. Millions of people are being displaced by extreme weather, more and more people are dying due to extreme heat – heat-related deaths average more than 498 000 annually from 2000 to 2019, according to WHO – deteriorating air quality, and disrupted water supplies and food production. Mental health and well-being are also being undermined, as communities experience growing instability and stress caused by climate change.

These impacts do not respect borders: flooding, vector-borne diseases and air pollution all defy national boundaries and affect entire regions. The challenges are significant, but so is the opportunity to act. Now is the time for a stronger, coordinated and unified response.

This strategy sets out a bold vision and response for healthier people, a healthier environment and a healthier planet. It seeks to tackle urgent and interconnected challenges – climate change, environmental degradation and rising health risks – by focusing on transformation across health, food and urban and island systems.

The strategy's three ambitions – strengthening health systems, creating healthier urban and island environments, and transforming food systems – are natural extensions of the Centre's founding vision, fully aligned with the mission, objectives and purpose set out in the 2019 memorandum of understanding that created the Centre.

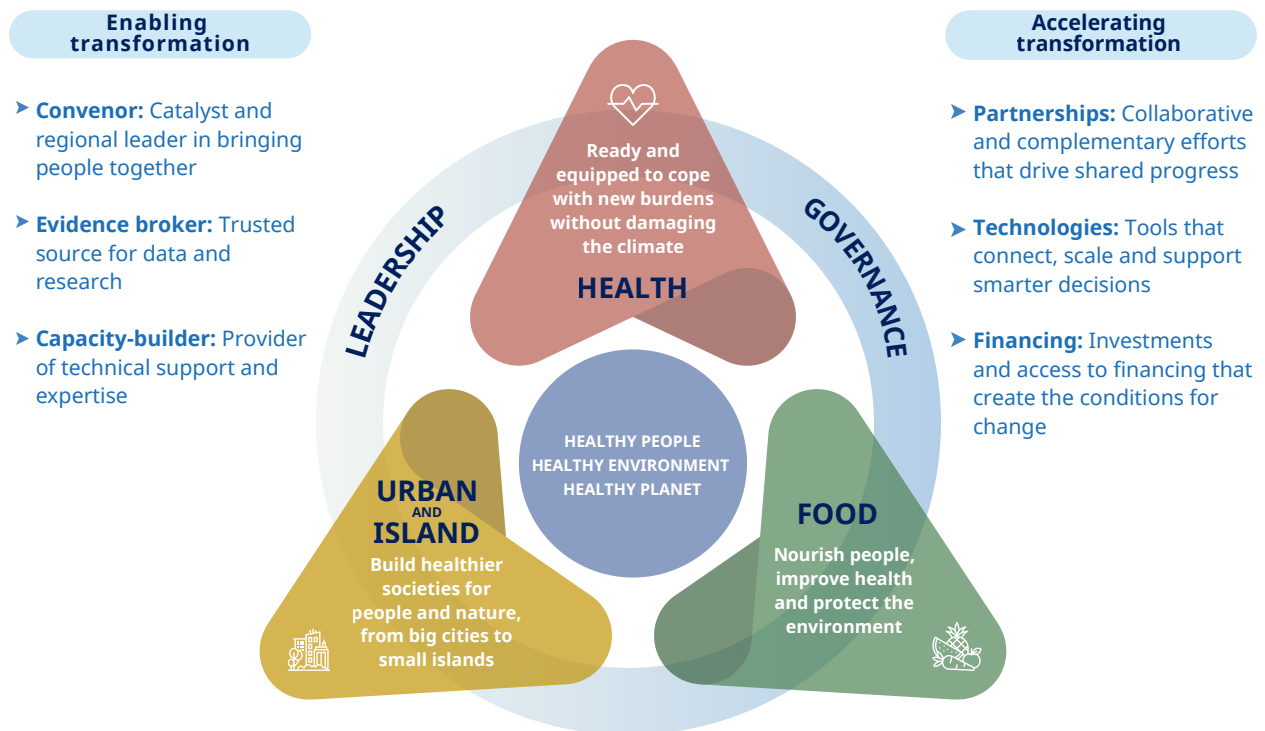
The three ambitions set out to build or strengthen:



To meet these goals, the strategy adopts a systems approach, recognizing the deep connections between people, place and the environment – and working across all sectors and levels of government. It focuses on unlocking opportunities to deliver multiple benefits: improve health, address climate change and environmental degradation, and protect the planet.

The functions and actions of ACE will be supported through the unique mandate of WHO to convene partners, share trusted evidence and build capacity across the Region. To accelerate transformation, three key drivers will be prioritized: partnerships, technologies and financing. These levers help connect people, strengthen systems and scale up practical solutions, ultimately turning strategy into impact.

Looking ahead, no single actor can meet these challenges alone. Progress will depend on strong collaboration across Member States along with groups in the WHO structure and a wide range of partners. Only by working together will it be possible to turn today's risks into tomorrow's opportunities – and move towards a healthier, more resilient future for all.



An evolving context – the burning platform



Past the tipping point, the climate crisis is here now and a direct and immediate danger to human health and natural ecosystems.

Rising global temperatures, extreme weather, air and water pollution, rising sea levels, flooding and ecosystem degradation are already increasing the burdens of disease, malnutrition, mental health and mortality. From 2030 to 2050, climate change could cause an additional 250 000 deaths per year, with direct health costs of up to US\$ 4 billion annually by 2030, according to WHO projections. The destruction of natural environments and disruption of food and water systems are putting millions at risk, especially in small island developing states (SIDS) and urban centres, where many already face systemic barriers to good health and well-being. These risks are not evenly shared: least developed countries and SIDS, which have at most marginally contributed to the crisis, are among the most vulnerable and poorly resourced to respond.

Understanding context is essential: how challenges and opportunities are being experienced and what they mean for the communities affected. Context is just as important as underlying societal trends and determinants. Grounding actions in the lived realities of the Region enables a more targeted, meaningful and lasting impact.

People across the Region are living longer but not necessarily healthier: *a double health challenge.*

Life expectancy in the Western Pacific Region has increased to 77.4 years in 2021 from 72 years in 2000; however, those extra years are often not lived in good health. Drivers of ill health have shifted towards noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), mental ill health and the impacts of pollution, climate and commercial forces.

Displacement and environmental disasters are also escalating sharply. In 2022 alone, disasters affected some 64 million people across Asia and the Pacific, resulting in 22.6 million internal displacements, which is over 70% of the 2022 global total. Between 2010 and 2021, disasters triggered about 225 million internal displacements across the Asia-Pacific region.

The health challenges facing populations today are global, more complex and more connected to how people live, work and eat. In many parts of the Region, this has resulted in a double burden of communicable and noncommunicable diseases, both linked to climate and environmental change and underlying structural factors in society. This changing health landscape must shape responses, bringing about a greater focus on prevention, equity and the underlying systems that enable good health.

The climate crisis did not come out of nowhere: *it was driven by decades of unsustainable development and short-term thinking.*

The climate crisis cannot be seen as an isolated shock. It is the product of decades of unsustainable development, environmental exploitation, and social and economic systems that have prioritized short-term gains over long-term well-being. Climate change amplifies existing health burdens, which are deeply rooted in the way energy is produced, cities are designed and communities are governed, food is grown.

Those who have contributed the least to the crisis, particularly younger generations and vulnerable countries, are now bearing the brunt of its effects. Climate and environmental justice, including intergenerational equity, must be reflected in all actions. Ultimately, lasting change will come not just by responding to climate impacts but from addressing underlying structural causes and prevailing systems.

A deeply connected ecosystem:
the destruction of natural ecosystems is impacting health outcomes.

The destruction of natural ecosystems is more than an environmental crisis. It is also a health crisis. As forests and habitats are cleared, the risk of animal-borne pathogens spreading to humans increases, exposing more people to new and emerging infectious diseases. While pandemic origins vary by pathogen, the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2002 and 2003 and the first reported human cases of COVID-19 in 2019 occurred in the Western Pacific Region.

Pollution from industrial waste, chemical runoff and plastics is contaminating water and food supplies, raising the risk of cancers, reproductive disorders and developmental problems. Ambient air pollution is also a major cardiovascular risk: WHO estimates that in 2019 about 68% of outdoor air-pollution-related premature deaths were due to ischaemic heart disease and stroke, underscoring the strong link between air pollution and cardiovascular disease.

Rising ocean temperatures are damaging coral reefs, disrupting fisheries and threatening marine biodiversity, thereby undermining food security and livelihoods. Across the Pacific, about half the population lives within 10 km of the coast. Not including Papua New Guinea, the proportion rises dramatically, with about 31% of people in the Pacific living at or less than 10 metres above sea level, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of those communities to coastal impacts.

At the same time, the way food is produced, processed and consumed is contributing to both environmental degradation and rising rates of NCDs. Recent WHO analyses show that Pacific islands account for nine of the 10 countries with the highest adult obesity prevalence globally, and the world's highest diabetes burdens are concentrated in the same subregion. These trends link food systems, environmental change and the rising burden of NCDs. Food systems, now recognized as a key driver of ecological harm and premature death, require urgent transformation.

All these examples show how deeply climate, environment and health are interconnected, and why solutions to address them, from the standpoint of planetary health, must consider them together.

Access to water and sanitation: a health and environmental crisis.

Changes in climate and across different environments are making it more difficult for communities to access safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene. Droughts, floods and rising sea levels are damaging water systems, contaminating supplies and increasing the spread of disease, especially in places where access is already limited.

The health impacts are severe. Unsafe water and poor sanitation contribute to the spread of diseases, malnutrition, and poor maternal and child health outcomes. The lack of safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in 2019 was responsible for 1.4 million deaths and 74 million disability-adjusted life years – primarily from diarrhoeal diseases and respiratory infections linked to inadequate hygiene. In the Western Pacific Region, approximately 83 000 deaths were attributed to unsafe WASH services in 2019. Many health facilities still lack reliable water, sanitation facilities and waste management, putting both patients and staff at risk.

Improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is essential. It is a basic health service, a core part of climate adaptation and a foundation for resilient, low-emission health systems to protect communities now and in the future.

Global uncertainty: a challenge and opportunity for the Region to act on climate, environment and health.

In a world facing uncertainty, with shifting political and economic dynamics, there is real value in cooperation. For the Western Pacific Region, working together on shared challenges such as climate change, environmental pressures and growing health needs can strengthen regional resilience and create new opportunities within global health. Investing in clean energy, stronger health systems and sustainable infrastructure not only supports national development, it also creates stronger links between countries, encourages knowledge-sharing and builds trust. Even as some countries adopt more inward-looking policies, regional collaboration can offer a path to greater stability and help produce positive impacts on health. The WHO regional role is especially important in this regard to support coordination on multinational threats, such as air pollution, climate-driven migration and shared marine ecosystem protection.

A Region like no other: change in the Western Pacific Region provides a significant opportunity.

The Western Pacific is one of the most diverse regions in the world – home to more than 2.2 billion people living in large cities, small islands and everything in between. The Region is rich in culture and history with tremendous diversity and economic power.

But the Region is changing fast. Populations are ageing, birth rates are falling, and migration is reshaping communities. In the Western Pacific Region, more than 245 million people are aged 65 and older; this number is projected to double by 2050. More than 84 million people are aged 75 and older; that number is expected to triple by 2050. Declining fertility rates in countries such as Japan and the Republic of Korea are contributing to shrinking workforces, particularly in sectors critical for health and social services.

At the same time, migration is influencing the Region's demographics and health workforce. Countries such as the Philippines and Viet Nam experience significant emigration of young adults seeking economic opportunities abroad, including trained health professionals. These shifts are putting new pressures on health systems, creating a growing demand for care while stretching limited workforces.

At the same time, change opens the door for innovation. There are game-changing opportunities to learn from each other, blend traditional knowledge with modern approaches and design systems that reflect the lived realities of people across the Region. This is a challenging time, but one which offers the possibility of a major transition towards planetary health – a chance to be involved in building a more sustainable, resilient and healthier Region for all.



Challenges to be addressed

The intersecting challenges of climate change, environmental degradation and new health burdens are placing immense pressure on the systems that support the lives of people and the planet.

Many communities lack the infrastructure and environment needed to support well-being, even as health systems are stretched by growing and shifting needs, and food systems drive up environmental harms and diet-related diseases. These challenges are inseparable, and understanding where and how these pressures are felt is essential to prioritize and carry out a response that is actionable and effective.

The Region's health systems are under stress, compounded by negative impacts on climate and natural ecosystems.

National health systems are underprepared to cope with the increasing burden of climate-related health issues. These issues range from heat-related illnesses triggered by extreme heat events and respiratory illnesses worsened by air pollution to malnutrition caused by food production disruptions. Many systems do not adequately equip health professionals with the training or knowledge needed to understand climate-related health risks or provide effective care and interventions. Health systems also lack climate-resilient infrastructure, especially in SIDS and low-income communities. They are highly vulnerable to extreme weather events and sea level rise, which often imperil health services when the need is greatest.

While health-care services save many lives, they also contribute significantly to carbon emissions. Health care accounts for approximately 4.6% of global greenhouse gas emissions, which is more than the shipping industry. If the health sector were a country, it would be the fifth largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world. This environmental footprint stems from energy use, pharmaceutical production, medical logistics and waste. Manufacturing, transport and improper disposal of items also create substantial plastic waste and pollution, adding to the strain on ecosystems and, subsequently, public health. As health systems are called upon to address rising risks, there is a growing need to ensure they do not simultaneously contribute to environmental harm by creating low-carbon

systems that are sustainable.

How food is produced, distributed and consumed is undermining health and accelerating environmental damage.

Food systems are increasingly controlled by a small number of large producers and retailers, which has led to a decline in agricultural diversity. At the same time, commercial practices often promote options that are highly processed and less healthy. These trends are contributing to poor diets and harming the environment.

Food production is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 29.7% of global human-caused emissions in 2022. This includes emissions from land use change, on-farm production, processing, transport, packaging and retail. More than one third of climate change attributable to human activity is estimated to come from the transformation of food systems.

Food systems also drive environmental harm in ways that directly impact health. Agricultural run-off and pollution contaminate water sources and coastal fisheries, increasing exposure to foodborne illnesses, contributing to antimicrobial resistance and spreading harmful pollutants. Deforestation and land degradation linked to industrial food production also increase the risk of infectious diseases. Rising greenhouse gas emissions from food production and waste accelerate climate change, which disrupts food supplies, damages ecosystems and advances climate-sensitive diseases and malnutrition.

There is also a direct link between food production, consumption and waste on one hand, and malnutrition, obesity and noncommunicable disease (NCDs), such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer, on the other. An estimated one third of NCD-related premature deaths could be prevented by transforming food systems. The case for improving food systems includes food safety and security. The risk is increasing for new outbreaks of diseases linked to food markets and animal-to-human transmission. Responding to this challenge will require coordinated action across sectors, starting with health, agriculture, trade and the environment.

Big cities and small islands are not equipped to support long-term health or climate resilience.

Homes, streets, public spaces, transport and services play a vital role in building health and climate resilience. Over 55% of the world lives in urban areas. That proportion is expected to increase to 68% by 2050. As of 2021, over 63% of the Region lived in urban areas. This trend is expected to increase in the coming decades. Across the Region – especially in big cities and small islands – communities are being reshaped by urbanization, environmental shifts and climate risks. In terms of air pollution and heat stress in urban centres to rising seas and extreme weather in coastal areas, the design and support of urban and island development are more important than ever. These shifts have led to poorer health and climate outcomes that are only getting worse. In many parts of the Region, ageing infrastructure, inadequate public services and climate risks are converging to create environments that actively undermine people's health, accentuating the need for health-centred urban planning and development.

While health-seeking behaviour is partly a matter of individual choice, a much greater influence is exerted by the enabling environment surrounding the individual. There is little point in encouraging people to use clean or renewable energy if they do not have access to sources. It is akin to encouraging bicycling in places where there are no spaces to ride, or recommending the use of safe water and sanitation to people who lack access to both, or telling people to eat more healthily when they cannot access or afford healthy food, or instructing them to shelter from extreme weather events using infrastructure that is not resilient.

Inadequate urban planning and institutional oversight, and rising sea levels in coastal areas are amplifying risks, especially in SIDS and underserved communities. These environmental and structural pressures reduce people's ability to stay healthy and adapt to worsening climate conditions.



An opportunity to act

The burning platform is clear. The challenges have been spelled out. The opportunity now is to act at the intersection of health, environment and climate change. Tackling them together offers the greatest potential for impact, especially at a time of rapid scientific and technological advances. With the right choices, the shift can move from a crisis response to long-term transformation.

The efforts of ACE will focus on practical opportunities to act within systems where health, environment and climate are most deeply interconnected. This approach aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, the global WHO Fourteenth General Programme of Work, 2025–2028, and the new vision for WHO work in the Western Pacific Region: act today to shape tomorrow, putting health at the centre of sustainable development.

Health as the driver for climate

action: *solutions that protect the planet can save lives today.*

Acting on climate change is not only essential for the future of the planet, but also offers immediate opportunities to improve people's health. Cleaner energy reduces air pollution and prevents millions of deaths from heart and lung diseases. Better designed, active cities support mental well-being and reduce NCDs. Shifting to more sustainable, plant-rich diets helps lower emissions while reducing cancer, diabetes and obesity. These are not distant gains: they are real, measurable health benefits that can be delivered now, across communities in the Western Pacific Region. Reframing climate action as a health imperative mobilizes and delivers faster change that is more people-centred, thereby generating support across sectors and building momentum for action that benefits both people and the planet.

Taking an evidence-based systems approach: *focusing on maximizing impact.*

Responding to complex, interconnected challenges means determining where change can have the greatest impact. This strategy is guided by systems thinking: the recognition that health, environment and climate have shared causes that can be addressed with shared solutions and that progress in one field may unlock benefits in others. Drawing on scientific evidence, lived experience and regional insight makes it possible to identify those leverage points where actions will generate the greatest returns across sectors and communities.

ACE is positioned to connect expertise, support national leadership and help turn knowledge into action. This includes helping countries integrate responses, apply technology and build cross-sectoral capacity. Collaborative approaches accelerate the move from ideas to implementation.



The Region offers the greatest opportunity: *diversity, experience and momentum to lead.*

The WHO Western Pacific Region has a unique opportunity to lead on environment and climate challenges. Countries are already demonstrating what is possible through locally driven solutions, sharing knowledge and building resilience.

By investing in clean energy, water and sanitation, healthy communities and sustainable infrastructure, countries can improve well-being, create new jobs, attract investment, and demonstrate regional and global leadership. These efforts not only align with global strategies, but also build on regional strengths, partnerships and a shared commitment to sustainable, inclusive development.

Vision

**Healthy people,
healthy environment,
healthy planet.**

This vision is one of healthy people supported by a healthy environment on a sustainable and resilient planet. It sets a bold and ambitious direction – one that recognizes the need for continued transformation in the face of climate change and environmental degradation. It reflects a shared commitment to safeguard health by protecting the systems that sustain it. The vision will be carried forward through collaboration with countries, communities and partners to make it a reality.

Mission

Bringing together people, knowledge and actions to tackle the impact of climate and environmental change, and improve the health of people, environment and planet. Advancing health and equity for all.

ACE supports the countries and areas of the WHO Western Pacific Region to make practical, informed and lasting changes to improve the health of people and the environment, now and for future generations.

ACE provides trusted technical support, evidence and coordination to help countries respond to growing climate, environmental and health challenges. This work spans systems and settings – from big cities to remote islands – and focuses on action. Working through WHO country offices, efforts are connected, progress is accelerated, and momentum is generated for initiatives that deliver the shared vision.



Theory of change behind the strategy

This strategy is built around a clear vision: healthy people, healthy environment, healthy planet.

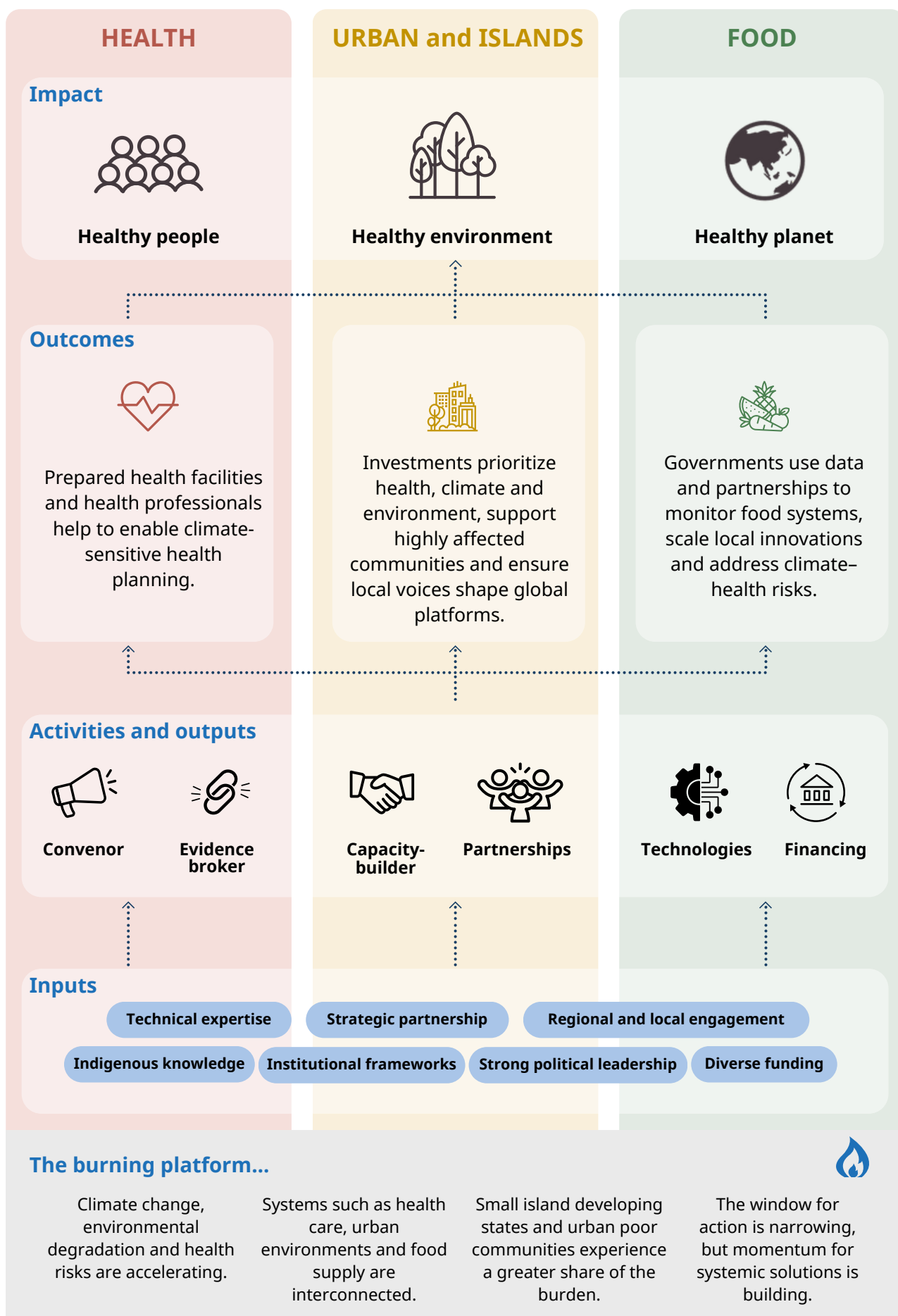
Achieving this vision takes more than ambition. It requires a clear line of sight between the challenges faced, the actions taken and the desired outcomes. The theory of change provides that pathway, showing how roles, activities and partnerships connect across systems to drive better decisions, stronger structures and lasting improvements in health and environmental outcomes.

In tackling challenges and realizing opportunities, the focus is on the systems that matter most. Health systems, urban and island systems, and food systems are where climate and environmental pressures are most acutely felt and where coordinated action can make the greatest difference. These systems are central to how people experience health and well-being every day, and they are important to building long-term resilience.

Support for change within and across these systems will be provided by convening the right partners, generating and sharing evidence, and providing technical support tailored to country and local needs. Efforts will prioritize solutions that are practical, scalable and attuned to the realities communities face, while also unlocking the conditions that make progress possible: stronger partnerships, smarter use of technology and access to financing aligned with long-term goals.

This theory of change is not fixed and will continually evolve as new insights emerge and impact is measured. It will connect the work of ACE to the bold goals set and ensure alignment with the overarching vision.





Three ambitions for a healthier planet

This strategy is grounded in the idea that lasting change comes from taking a systems approach based on the interconnections between structures that shape health, environment and climate resilience. Health is both a driver and an outcome. How people access health services, what they eat and where they live are all reflections of these encircling systems. Improving health outcomes means shifting these systems to work better for people, the environment and the planet.

Guided by a theory of change, the strategy sets out a clear pathway: from ambition to outcomes, through targeted actions that shift structures, align partners and unlock co-benefits for health, climate and sustainability. This means going beyond short-term fixes to develop the conditions that support long-term, healthier futures.

Implementation will focus on supporting Member States to plan, prioritize and act. Working with WHO country offices, technical partners and regional networks, support will be practical, health-focused and grounded in real-world needs. The work of ACE will be about putting tools and knowledge into action.

It also means building capacity across sectors – not just in health, but in food, infrastructure, planning and local governance – to enable more cohesive decisions focused on health while delivering broader benefits. The aim is to move from reactive responses to forward-looking, integrated action that protects and improves public health.

While the scope is large, the approach remains focused. This work will not duplicate existing efforts or deliver large-scale infrastructure. Instead, it will support countries with the evidence, capacity and collaboration needed to advance their own transitions. Regional knowledge, peer learning and place-based innovation will be central.

By connecting partners, strengthening systems and applying evidence through a shared theory of change, this strategy aims to help Member States turn ambition into action, promoting healthier people, a healthier environment and a healthier planet.



Building on existing initiatives:

The work of ACE will aim to build on, complement and support ongoing regional efforts, including the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment, the Small Island Developing States or SIDS Initiative on NCDs and Climate Change and Health, and long-standing platforms such as Healthy Cities and Healthy Islands, which have already shown the power of integrated, community-driven action.

Ambition One:

health systems ready and equipped to cope with new burdens without damaging the climate or environment

Health systems in the Western Pacific Region must do more than respond to today's challenges: they need to anticipate future risks, protect people during emergencies and operate in ways that minimize environmental harm. Our first ambition focuses on building health systems that are resilient to climate shocks, environmentally sustainable and better prepared for emerging health threats.

Support will centre on strengthening core infrastructure, training the health workforce, securing essential supplies and integrating foresight into planning and investment. Cleaner energy, climate-smart technologies and cross-sectoral collaboration will help reduce emissions and improve health and environmental outcomes.

The WHO Western Pacific Region will lead by example. By advancing resilient, low-emission and future-ready health systems, countries can protect communities, shape smarter investments and demonstrate that health systems can be both climatologically and environmentally responsible.

The priorities include:

1.1. Health systems resilient to climate-related threats

To meet the growing challenges posed by climate-related shocks and stresses, health systems must be equipped not only to respond but to anticipate, recover from and adapt to these disruptions. Hospitals and clinics must scale up their preparedness (adaptation) to manage present and future health impacts of climate change. Many are at risk from floods, storms and heatwaves, putting lives at risk when health care is needed most. Health workers must be equipped to prepare for and respond to crises, and supply chains must ensure continued access to essential medicines, equipment, clean water and sanitation.

Strengthening health infrastructure, improving air and water quality, and ensuring staff have the knowledge and tools they need will create a safer environment for both patients and health workers. A health-care system built to withstand disruption will deliver better care, no matter what challenges emerge.



Building climate resilience in the Lao health system

In 2023, WHO and Save the Children Australia launched a US\$ 28.2 million project funded by the Green Climate Fund to implement a **Health National Adaptation Plan in the Lao People's Democratic Republic** at provincial, district and health facility levels, including 250 communities and 100 health-care facilities. The project benefited more than 1.8 million people, or about 25% of the population.

A 2021 survey found that only 16% of health-care facilities had basic hygiene services and 19% proper waste management. In response, more than 70 hospitals joined the safe, clean, green and climate-resilient health-care facility initiative. Climate-resilient water safety plans now cover 34 systems, with 10 more being developed every year.

Early warning systems and emergency preparedness have also been expanded. ACE continues to support the WHO Lao country office to promote this model through South-South learning exchanges, enabling replication across Southeast Asia and beyond.

1.2. Reducing health sector emissions and environmental risks

Health systems contribute to climate change and environmental degradation through the energy consumed by health-care facilities, pharmaceutical and medical product production and supply, transport and logistics, and waste and pollution generation. These effects include not only greenhouse gas emissions, but also broader environmental harms such as hazardous waste, plastic pollution and pressure on water resources.

To reduce the impact of these factors, support will be provided to countries to develop and implement tailored plans that lower the environmental and carbon footprint of their health systems, in alignment with national priorities for primary health care, universal health coverage and climate mitigation. This includes promoting the use of climate-smart, resource-efficient products, technologies and infrastructure, strengthening waste and water management, and providing sustainable diets.

Efforts will also focus on empowering the health community to advocate for and influence broader cross-sectoral policies (in energy, food, transport and urban planning) in favour of change that delivers health and climate co-benefits. The Western Pacific Region can lead by example, demonstrating that health systems can be world class and environmentally responsible.

1.3. Foresight for future-ready health systems

Health systems need more than just the capacity to respond to today's risks. They must be able to anticipate and prepare for the changing burden of disease, shifting demographics and the long-term impact of climatological and environmental change. Across the Western Pacific Region, countries and areas are asking for better tools to understand emerging challenges: how disease patterns are evolving, where heat stress is likely to affect ageing populations, how NCDs could complicate future climate disruptions and what kind of novel public health threats may emerge.

Countries will be supported to strengthen their capacity for foresight: developing and applying data, models and projections to inform smarter decisions today. This includes monitoring the health impacts of climate change, such as heatwaves and heat- or cold-related illnesses, and identifying policy options for effective response; analysing changes in environmental quality and exploring low-carbon healthcare system options tailored to national contexts. It also includes identifying where future pressures are likely to be felt most acutely, how to target investments for long-term health resilience and how to align planning with broader demographic and environmental trends. Foresight can also guide financing decisions and development priorities, ensuring national strategies and partner investments have an evidence base to assess future risks and needs.

This process will result in health systems better prepared to manage future challenges. Building up these capabilities and capacities across the Region enables governments to better plan for the next decade of change and shape health systems to be ready for whatever comes next.

Ambition Two: urban and island systems for healthier people and nature

Urban and island environments are critical to the Region's health and climate future. The second ambition focuses on supporting governments and communities to design, invest in and manage settings that protect health, reduce environmental risk and are adapted to a changing climate. These settings face shared challenges: in many cities disadvantaged communities experience persistent health gaps compared to other populations. Nevertheless, major opportunities for change also exist, with strong political leadership, resource concentration and a growing momentum for urban transformation.

Support will focus on shaping infrastructure decisions that deliver shared benefits, such as cleaner air, access to green spaces, safer housing and sustainable transport. Technical guidance will ensure that infrastructure is designed for resilience, health and sustainability, particularly in cities and coastal areas facing acute climate risks.

This work will also raise the status of health in global discussions on sea level rise and climate justice. Collaboration with countries and partners will strengthen evidence, legal protection and international action to support SIDS and other vulnerable communities.

Decentralized decision-making is crucial. Strengthening the role of local governments and institutions will ensure that solutions are tailored, responsive and grounded in community priorities. A place-based, neighbourhood approach – responsive to local context and people's lived experiences – will help create healthier, more inclusive and climate-ready environments across the Region through shared learning, capacity-building and policy alignment.

The priorities include:

2.1. Addressing major environmental risks through healthy and sustainable infrastructure

The way in which large cities and island communities are changing and transforming has a direct impact on health, equity and environmental outcomes. When they are poorly designed – whether in terms of housing, streets or public spaces – they can isolate people, increase pollution and limit access to healthy environments. Well-designed infrastructure, on the other hand – such as walkable neighbourhoods, access to green space, clean public transport and cool, safe housing – can make daily life healthier and more resilient to climate change.

There is an opportunity to support countries and areas in shaping infrastructure decisions that deliver shared benefits, such as reducing heat and air pollution, supporting active transport, and improving health and quality of life. The role of ACE is to provide data, evidence and practical guidance to show how infrastructure, particularly in urban and island settings, can generate co-benefits for health, climate and the environment.

Support includes technical advice on how to design and operate climate-resilient infrastructure that is able to function during disruptions and powered by cleaner energy. It also extends to developing public health-driven air quality management guidance and tools drawing on international research to inform Member States' roles and responsibilities; addressing emerging concerns such as rising ozone and black carbon, microplastics and PFAS contamination by analysing health risks, compiling best practices, policy options and cooperative responses; and improving indoor environments through assessments for vulnerable groups, diagnostics and tailored solutions. Managing waste responsibly, improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, and delivering safe, continuous care are also important aspects, especially in areas most exposed to climate risks.

By enabling a healthier, climate-ready infrastructure, the Western Pacific Region will lead by example, creating environments that protect people, improve health and safeguard the planet.

2.2. Safeguarding SIDS and coastal communities facing sea level rise

Rising sea levels threaten to displace populations, disrupt water and food systems, increase disease burdens and damage health infrastructure, putting the health and survival of populations on SIDS and in coastal areas at critical risk. Spearheading a dedicated international instrument can institutionalize international cooperation, build climate-resilient health systems and advance legal protection for those most affected. This initiative reflects the principles of climate justice and the moral obligation of historically high-emission countries to support people and communities most affected.

Collaboration with partners including other United Nations agencies and leading research institutions to produce and disseminate robust evidence on the disproportionate health burdens faced by SIDS due to sea level rise will be crucial to achieving this goal. Raising the visibility of health within global climate negotiations – particularly at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties – will ensure that health remains central to international climate action. This approach supports rights-based, sustainable solutions for Pacific island countries and areas and other climate-vulnerable communities across the Region.

Lancet Commission on sea level rise, health and justice

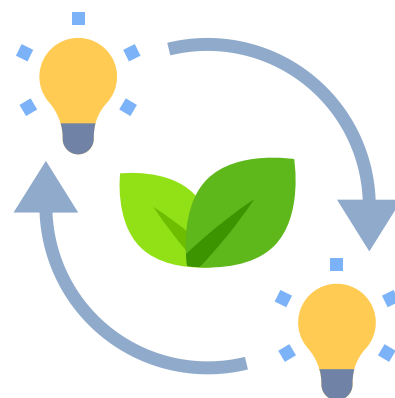
Support for a new global commission will focus on the profound and growing health impacts of sea level rise, particularly for low-lying and vulnerable communities. It will also explore the interconnected roles of biodiversity loss, climate change, health and governance in shaping just and evidence-based responses. The purpose is to generate new knowledge and evidence of importance to people's health.

2.3. Strengthening decentralized actions to drive better health

Strong local decision-making is essential to deliver effective, context-specific solutions for health, climate and the environment. Whether in large urban centres or remote island communities, empowering local leaders and institutions to plan, prioritize and act is critical. This includes decentralizing authority, building capacity for local planning and service delivery, and ensuring that local actors have the resources and tools they need.

Placing decision-making closer to communities allows more effective responses to local realities and scaling up of successful approaches. Breaking down divisions between health, urban planning and environmental policy at the local level will enable more responsive, resilient and cohesive systems across the Region. Leveraging international collaborations while showcasing regional excellence can play an important role in strengthening governance and driving action at the local level.

Initiatives, such as C40 Cities and Healthy Cities, show how local leadership can drive better health and environmental outcomes through cleaner transport, greener spaces and planning that puts people first. Many cities and communities across the Region are already showing what is possible, integrating health into climate action and creating more liveable, sustainable places.



Ambition Three: food systems that improve health, protect the environment and reduce negative climate impact

Food systems across the Western Pacific Region offer powerful opportunities to improve public health, reduce environmental harm and develop climate resilience. The third ambition focuses on supporting governments and communities to transform how food is produced, accessed and consumed, so that food systems contribute to healthier people, a healthier environment and a healthier planet.

Efforts will focus on making healthy and sustainable diets more available through public institutions, aligning procurement and policy with nutritional and environmental goals, and shifting the market conditions that drive unhealthy consumption. Support will also be provided to strengthen food-health monitoring systems and apply integrated, One Health approaches to anticipate risk and guide action.

Local knowledge and leadership will be essential. The Region's ancient culinary traditions and diverse ecosystems are a foundation for building more sustainable, equitable food systems. ACE will work to help countries spotlight and scale up local innovations, strengthen cross-sectoral governance and connect food policy with broader health and climate goals.

There is a clear role in assisting countries to link food policy with action on health, climate and the environment. By building on the Region's culinary traditions, knowledge systems and community leadership, food systems can be developed to work better for people and for the planet, both now and into the future.

The priorities include:

3.1. Promoting and enabling healthy and sustainable diets through policies and institutions

Public institutions, such as hospitals, schools and elder-care facilities, influence the diets of millions. Yet many still rely on highly processed, industrially produced meals that do not reflect nutritional needs or respect local food cultures. As populations age and NCDs rise, what people eat matters more than ever.

ACE supports Member States to develop practical food policies that improve nutrition, promote sustainability and strengthen food safety in public settings, especially the health sector. This includes aligning procurement with dietary guidelines, supporting local producers and embedding climate-friendly choices in food services.

But improving food environments alone is not enough. People face constant pressures to eat unhealthy foods. Pressures include how food is priced, marketed and traded. These forces do not affect everyone equally, however. Their influence is strongest in communities with the least power to choose, which deepens health inequities across the Region. Tackling them is essential to reducing obesity, diabetes and other diet-related illnesses.

This is why ACE supports governments to shift public spending, promote fairer food pricing, design healthier cities and reduce the impact of harmful marketing and trade practices.

Together, these actions help to situate food systems within a wider culture of care: care of children and patients, care taken by those who grow and prepare food, and care for the environment. By transforming food in public institutions, countries can lead by example, improving health outcomes, reducing environmental harm and building fairer, more equitable food systems.

3.2. Strengthening food-health monitoring to forecast risk and guide action

Food systems shape both human and planetary health but current monitoring often neglects the full picture. While data on production and trade are continually improving, there is limited appreciation of how changes in food systems affect nutrition, infectious diseases and other key health outcomes, or how these pressures are being accelerated by climate change. Most countries do not track changes in diet quality, health impacts of climate change on food systems or the relationship between food and a wide range of health risks. The information tracked is often fragmented or not used to guide decision-making at national or subnational levels.

In partnership, countries will be supported to strengthen surveillance and data systems that track the health and environmental impacts of food systems more effectively. This information will also be used to support improved risk forecasting, better preparedness and more effective, cross-sectoral decision-making.

Support includes monitoring and responding to key trends, such as the rise of climate-sensitive diseases, agriculture-derived pollution and the growing burden of diet-related NCDs. One Health approaches that link health, environmental and socioeconomic data will be promoted, enabling smarter early warnings and faster responses, along with more coordinated cross-sectoral planning.

At the same time, ACE will support countries to build resilience to both sudden disruptions (heatwaves and floods) as well as slower climate pressures, such as rising temperatures and sea levels. Placing health and environment at the centre of food systems intelligence helps address underlying vulnerabilities and enables smarter, more sustainable decisions that benefit both people and the planet.

3.3. Spotlighting and connecting local solutions for diverse, healthy and resilient food systems

Across the Region, governments, farmers, youth, Indigenous communities and civil society are protecting and reclaiming food systems rooted in local traditions, diverse crop yields and shorter supply chains. This approach fosters more varied, nutrient-rich diets, reduces reliance on ultra-processed foods and promotes biodiversity via practices such as agroecology, thereby delivering health benefits while strengthening climate resilience.

However, many of these systems lack support and are at risk of being displaced by industrial food models. When traditional food cultures and local environments are weakened, public health often suffers, especially in areas with less resources and more vulnerability to climate change.



Support can be provided by strengthening regional platforms, sharing knowledge and scaling up effective local solutions. Increasing the visibility and connectivity of place-based efforts enables countries to adopt and adapt what works. These initiatives can be linked to regional and global platforms and governance. Building One Health strategies around community-led food systems ensures that their value is recognized in terms of health, biodiversity and climate resilience and reflected in broader policy frameworks, for example, by ensuring that community-led models and practices are taken up in broader health and environmental strategies.

By connecting local action with institutional systems and fostering shared learning, food systems can reflect the nutritional needs, cultures and environments of communities across the Western Pacific Region more directly.

Local action done right!

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact – Cities leading food systems change

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact unites more than 250 cities in transforming urban food systems to support healthier people and a healthier planet. Cities commit to action across six areas, including sustainable diets, food waste and nutrition in public procurement. By making food policy an intrinsic aspect of local planning, the Policy Pact shows how city leadership can drive healthier, more resilient and climate-friendly food systems – offering lessons for the Western Pacific Region.

Roles and functions

The role and function of ACE are to better understand complex issues, identify practical entry points and support countries to act across national systems, local governments and island communities. This strategy, while ambitious, does not attempt to do everything. The strategic plan is based on doing fewer things well: connecting people, delivering timely and relevant evidence, and building the capacity needed for change. ACE leads where leadership is needed and supports where support is most useful, always working in partnership with governments and other stakeholders to guide and accelerate progress.

Activities are guided by a commitment to the systems approach. Health outcomes are not shaped by the health sector alone. They are influenced by the environment people live in, the infrastructure they rely on, the food they eat, and the policies and systems that shape their lives. ACE assists countries to move beyond fragmented efforts towards more integrated, cross-sectoral solutions that improve health, protect ecosystems and foster resilience across the planet. This includes support to develop and apply evidence-based policies, aligned with WHO norms and standards and grounded in science, to deliver health and environmental outcomes.



Convenor: a catalyst and regional leader bringing people and stakeholders together

The role includes convening actors to build shared solutions. As a regional leader and catalyst, WHO coordinates health and climate action across the Western Pacific Region, working closely with WHO country offices.

This means creating space for collaboration across governments, cities, experts and communities. Technical experts, leaders and decision-makers are connected to overcome divisions and support evidence-based, place-specific approaches, whether assisting a small island adapting to rising seas or a large city redesigning transport systems for cleaner air and better health. ACE highlights examples from across the Region to demonstrate what systems-based, integrated action looks like in practice.

Regional forum on climate-resilient health systems

ACE hosted the Inaugural Western Pacific Action Forum on Climate-resilient and Sustainable Health Systems in Singapore in September. Bringing together more than 20 Member States, the three-day forum focused on moving from planning to implementation – covering key themes such as workforce, finance, infrastructure and governance. Efforts have accelerated the development of national road maps aligned with the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health framework, driving further coordinated climate action in health.

This reflects the unique role of WHO at the regional level, helping countries to align goals, connect policy to practice, and build momentum for investments that deliver health as well as environmental benefits.



Evidence Broker: a trusted source for data

Good decisions rely on data. ACE focuses on sharing science and data that are practical, relevant and contextually relevant for the Region.

Doing so includes brokering access to tools, supporting the use of local research and building evidence in areas from sea level rise to urban design and food systems. The aim is to serve as a centre of excellence for useful, accessible and connected data and knowledge, backed by science.

Member States will be supported to plan, prioritize and act, translating science into policy and policies into measurable impacts. By showing the full picture, ACE aims to enable smarter, more connected decisions that drive real change.



Capacity-builder: a provider of technical support and expertise

ACE provides hands-on support to strengthen the skills, tools and systems needed for countries to adapt and lead. This is done in collaboration with WHO country offices and other partners.

Supporting may include helping a city measure the carbon footprint of its health system, guiding national adaptation planning or advising on climate-smart infrastructure. Efforts focus on building practical capacity across health, environment and planning sectors.

The goal is to assist countries and areas to shift from reactive responses to proactive, coordinated planning. This process rarely involves single-issue or quick fixes, but rather creates the conditions for lasting progress.

This support will remain focused and strategic. It will not include implementation of large-scale infrastructure or agricultural projects, duplication of existing regional networks, or academic research that lacks a clear path to action. Extending regional knowledge and showcasing leadership are central to this work.

The value lies in doing a focused set of tasks well, supporting implementation, connecting action and helping countries turn complex challenges into practical, measurable progress. All work is done in collaboration, drawing on the combined strengths of WHO and partners.

Scaling up country support across the Region

ACE provides hands-on support to Member States to turn climate and health priorities into actions. In Viet Nam, ACE co-hosted a national conference on air pollution and health. In the Pacific, ACE is helping to strengthen health system resilience to extreme weather. In Mongolia, ACE supports national efforts to tackle environmental pollutants. This growing in-country work reflects the Centre's commitment to boosting technical capacity and supporting country-led implementation at scale.



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Catalysts for change

Turning the strategy into real-world progress requires more than good ideas. The right foundations and accelerators are needed to drive transformation. This means working collaboratively across countries, sectors and communities, and using the right mix of tools, people and resources to put plans into practice.

The focus must be on three critical accelerators: partnerships, technology and financing. The process must each be grounded in people and designed to support lasting change across health, food and community systems in the Western Pacific Region.



Partnerships: collaboration and complementarity that drive shared progress

The scale and complexity of the challenges ahead demand collective action. Fostering healthier people, environments and systems depends on how effectively actors work together. This is why partnerships are central within WHO and across a broader set of institutions, networks and movements.

Efforts will involve a wide range of stakeholders, from government ministries and municipal leaders to civil society, international organizations, research institutions and foundations. They will feature traditional alliances and bold, solution-driven collaborations to tackle complex, systemic challenges.

WHO brings technical expertise, convening power, evidence and country-level experience and assets to complement the strengths of other partners. The goal is to turn common challenges into shared progress and make measurable regional gains towards healthier people, a healthier environment and a healthier planet.

Clear communication is also essential. By sharing what works (through research, storytelling, campaigns, regional platforms and targeted outreach) more actors can be brought into the conversation and greater momentum created. Change happens faster when those with different roles and mandates understand why it matters and how to act together.

This is not business as usual. These are a new type of partnership, built to enable the systems-level change the Region needs.

WHO-UNEP partner to hold ministerial forum on health and environment

Over the past decade, WHO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have co-led the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment, a unique ministerial-level intergovernmental platform established to promote cross-sectoral collaboration between health and environment ministries.

The Forum has convened five ministerial-level meetings, most recently in 2024. Participants include Member States of the WHO South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions and the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Moving forward, ACE will work with UNEP to institutionalize the Forum as a permanent coordination mechanism, support the development of joint climate-health action plans and enhance country capacity through technical support and engagement of the Forum's thematic working groups, regional research hubs and multi-stakeholder dialogues.



Technologies: tools that connect, scale up and support smarter decisions

Technology enables faster decisions, smarter planning and stronger connections across systems. From climate and health data platforms to digital surveillance, early warning systems and AI-enabled risk analysis, technology helps decision-makers respond more quickly and plan more effectively.

But impact depends on using the right technologies in the right context. The focus of ACE is helping partners to apply technologies that support better decisions, to scale up what works and improve coordination across sectors and settings.

This means prioritizing tools that are accessible, adaptable and grounded in real-world needs, from local governments and small island health facilities to national ministries. ACE can identify, promote and apply digital systems that meet community needs while reflecting the realities of people's lives and the complexity of the systems on which they rely.

Integration of surveillance and early warning systems

WHO has provided direct technical support to aid Solomon Islands and Fiji to integrate weather and climate data within disease surveillance systems and expand the capabilities of geographic information systems. This allows health systems to anticipate and respond more effectively to climate-sensitive health threats.



Financing: investments and access to funds that create the conditions for change

Investment is more than just money. It involves aligning resources with purposes and ensuring that they support change where it is most needed. ACE works with partners to help unlock funding from a mix of sources, including development banks, philanthropic institutions, climate- and health-financing mechanisms, and national governments. These activities include developing joint proposals, supporting innovation regarding how funds are used and ensuring that resources flow to address issues on the ground and across systems.

Policy remains an important mechanism to create the right conditions for investment. By aiding countries to align health, climate and environmental goals in their national and regional plans, more coordinated action can be supported and new opportunities for funding opened. Whether through technical advice, shared planning tools or support across ministries, policy ambitions can be connected with financing pathways.

Mapping and mobilizing climate finance for health

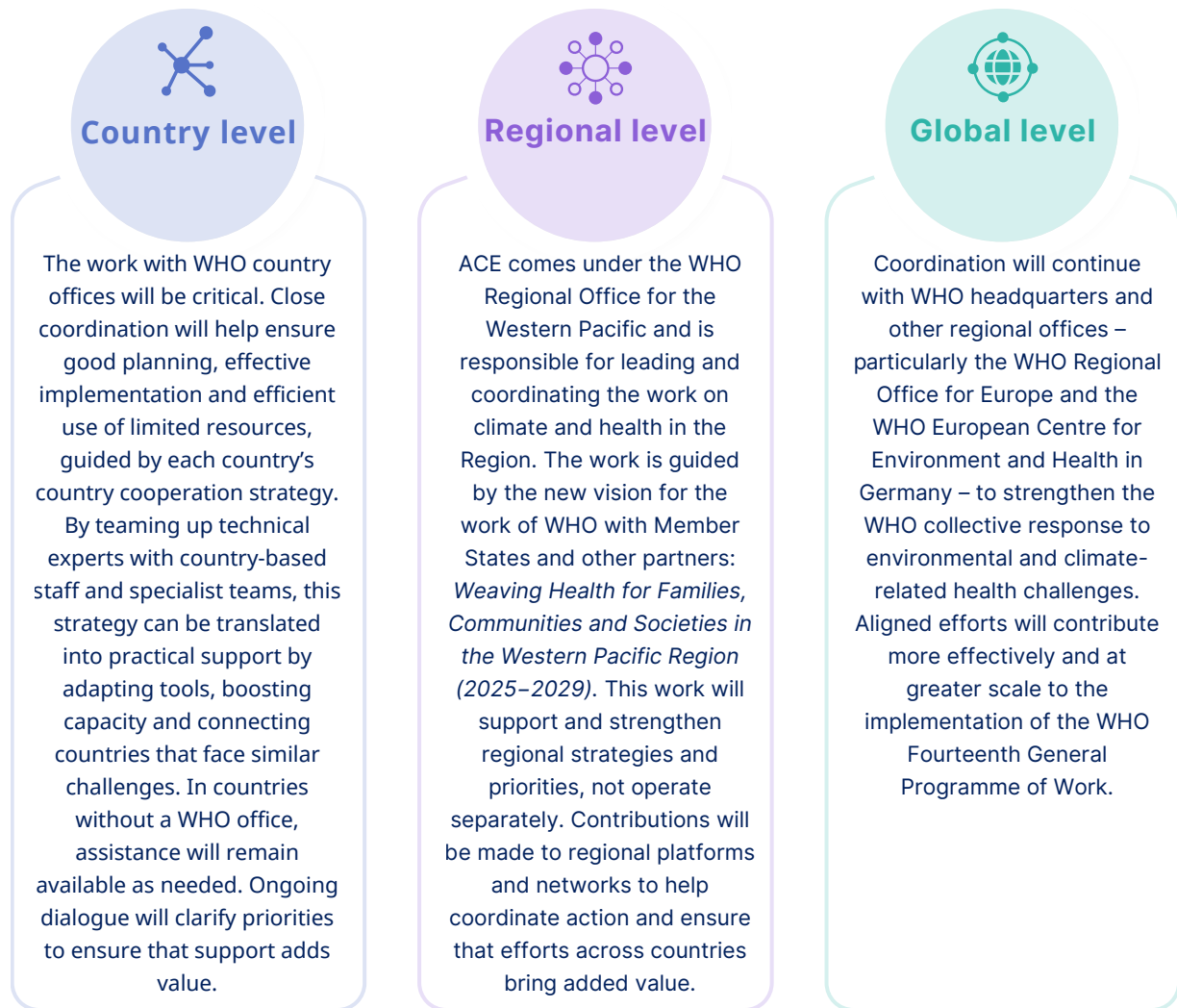
ACE and the University of Melbourne are developing a tool to help countries map and access climate finance for health. By translating complex funding landscapes into clear and actionable insights, the tool will support governments to mobilize resources for priority climate-health projects. Piloting in 2025, the tool will be followed by a scale-up to strengthen financial access and autonomy across the Western Pacific Region.

Progress comes through shared efforts, led by countries, supported by partners and fuelled by organizations across the Region. Financing, along with partnership and technology, is one of the key accelerators that will take this strategic plan from words to actions and deliver real results for people, the environment and the planet.

Alongside these accelerators for transformation are cross-cutting themes of leadership and governance. These reflect the leadership role of ACE in inspiring collective and inclusive actions. The leadership and governance provided by ACE, working across WHO and beyond, will help strengthen and enforce policies and regulations, promote partnerships and mobilize communities to tackle complex environmental and health issues.

Working as One WHO

Delivering on this strategic plan will require close collaboration across the entire WHO system. Colleagues at every level, from headquarters to regional and country offices, will need to align their efforts to deliver shared goals and ensure that support adds value where it is most needed. ACE is one part of this chain. If WHO country offices are the front lines, the role of ACE is to support them and represent Member States that do not have WHO offices.



Expertise will also be drawn from WHO collaborating centres and active technical networks. These relationships serve to maintain connections to emerging science, strengthen regional research and scale up approaches proven effective.

Many challenges addressed in this strategy do not respect national borders. Working across the WHO system makes it possible to respond to such shared challenges in a more coordinated and connected way.

Demonstrating impact

Monitoring and evaluation are essential to turn the strategy into meaningful, measurable progress. In a region as diverse and dynamic as the Western Pacific – where health, climate and environmental challenges are constantly evolving and new opportunities emerging – setting a direction for action is not enough. Tracking what works and adapting solutions are critical to ensure progress and accountability to the Member States WHO serves.

A planned approach to monitoring and evaluation is not about checking boxes. It is about learning, improving and confirming that the strategy delivers impact across health, food, and urban and island systems. More than activities, progress will be measured by outcomes: looking at how well actions are addressing challenges, how comprehensively countries are being supported and what long-term capacities are being created to ensure progress is sustainable.

Built into the way of working

Monitoring and evaluation will be integrated into every stage of implementation and embedded as a core part of delivering on the strategic plan. Biannual monitoring and reporting cycles will provide regular opportunities for reflection, learning and adaptation.



Evaluation will draw on both quantitative and qualitative data, including country feedback, lived experiences and stories of change, helping to capture what has happened and why, as well as how improvements can be made.

Focused on what matters most

Monitoring this strategy will focus on dimensions that reflect a systems-based approach in line with the WHO Fourteenth General Programme of Work and the Western Pacific Region's new vision of weaving, namely:

- Reach and quality of technical support and capacity-building delivered;
- Use and influence of data, research and tools provided;
- Effectiveness of ACE as a convener and connector across sectors and stakeholders;
- Extent to which the work of ACE supports systems-based solutions and cross-sectoral collaboration; and
- Ability to mobilize resources and partnerships in support of priorities.

Monitoring and evaluation will be aligned with the broader WHO organizational frameworks, including the WHO Fourteenth General Programme of Work Results Framework, the Western Pacific regional vision and relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Where appropriate, contributions will be made to the development of shared indicators through mechanisms such as the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment.

Wherever possible, efforts will link up with national and regional monitoring frameworks to support mutual accountability and reduce reporting burdens. Regional progress will also be highlighted through country-led presentations at major platforms.

By embedding monitoring and evaluation into daily operations, activities can remain flexible, responsive and focused on the long term. This supports learning, builds trust and ensures actions remain firmly grounded.

How the work of ACE is linked to WHO regional and global workplans



ACE strategy ambitions	Links with WHO Fourteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 14) joint outcomes	GPW 14 indicators	Alignment with action areas (strands) from the Western Pacific regional vision
Health systems ready and equipped	1.1 Climate-resilient health systems	1.1 National Climate and Health Capacity Index	Vertical Strand 2: Climate-resilient health systems
	1.2 Low-carbon health systems	1.2.1 Health-care greenhouse gas emissions	Horizontal Strand A: Innovation and foresight
Food systems that nourish and protect	2.2 Priority risk factors reduced through multisectoral approaches	Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.2.2 Child malnutrition	Vertical Strand 4: Healthier people across the life course
		World Health Assembly resolution WHA75(11) Healthy dietary patterns	Horizontal Strand A: Empowerment and participation
Urban and island systems for healthier communities	2.1 Health inequities reduced	SDG 11.1.1 Urban housing	Vertical Strand 3: Resilient communities and health security
	3.1 Primary health care approach strengthened	3.9.1 Air pollution mortality	Horizontal Strand B: Decentralized support
		6.1.1 Safe drinking-water	



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