WHO Global Action Plan on Climate Change and Health

Member State Briefing 11 July 2024



Background

The climate crisis is a health crisis.

Current trends suggest that the 1.5°C limit – as set in the Paris Agreement - may be exceeded as early as in the 2030s.

The 77th World Health Assembly, held in May 2024, adopted the WHA77.14 Resolution on Climate Change and Health, calling Member States to scale up their response to climate change.

The Resolution calls for the development of a "global WHO plan of action on climate change and health".



Considerations for the Global Plan of Action

The Resolution foresees that the Plan of Action on Climate Change and Health is:

- Results-based, needs-oriented and capabilities-driven
- Within existing resources, as feasible
- Coherent with the text of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement
- Firmly integrating climate across the technical work of the WHO at all three levels of the Organization
- Emphasizing the need for cross-sectoral cooperation, as appropriate



SEVENTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY Agenda item 15.4 WHA77.14 1 June 2024

Climate change and health

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly,

Having considered the consolidated report by the Director-General;

Recalling resolution WHA61.19 (2008) on climate change and health and welcoming the work carried out so far by WHO in pursuit of it;

Recalling also resolution WHA68.8 (2015) on addressing the health impact of air pollution and resolution WHA76.17 (2023) on the sinpact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health, which recognize the link between health, environment and climate change;

Recognizing that climate change is one of the major threats to global public health, and noting the urgent call issued by the Director-General for global climate action to promote health and build climate-resilient and sustainable health systems;²

Aware that increasingly frequent extreme weather events and conditions are taking a rising toll on poptle's well-being, livelshoods and physical and mental health, as well as theatening health systems and health facilities; and that changes in weather and climate are threatening biodiversity and ecosystems, food security, nutrition, air quality and safe and sufficient access to water, and driving up foods, water, and vector-borne diseases, undersecoring the need for rapidly scaled-up adaptation actions to make health systems more climate resilience.

Recalling that modern health systems also contribute to environmental pollution and approximately 5% of global carbon emissions, including through the end-to-end supply chain from product manufacturing, procurement, distribution, use, waste creation and its disposal, thereby negatively impacting health; and undersoceing the need for mitigation and adaption actions and use of new technologies to make health systems more environmentally sustainable, including at the primary health care level;

Recognizing that the pace and scope of mitigation and adaptation efforts are being surposed by climate change threats, which results in a range of sudden and long-term impacts to health and well-being; and underscoring the need to prepare and manage health sector needs for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage to help to protect and strengthen the resilience of individuals, communities, the workforce, livelihoods and econvistress in the face of climate change.

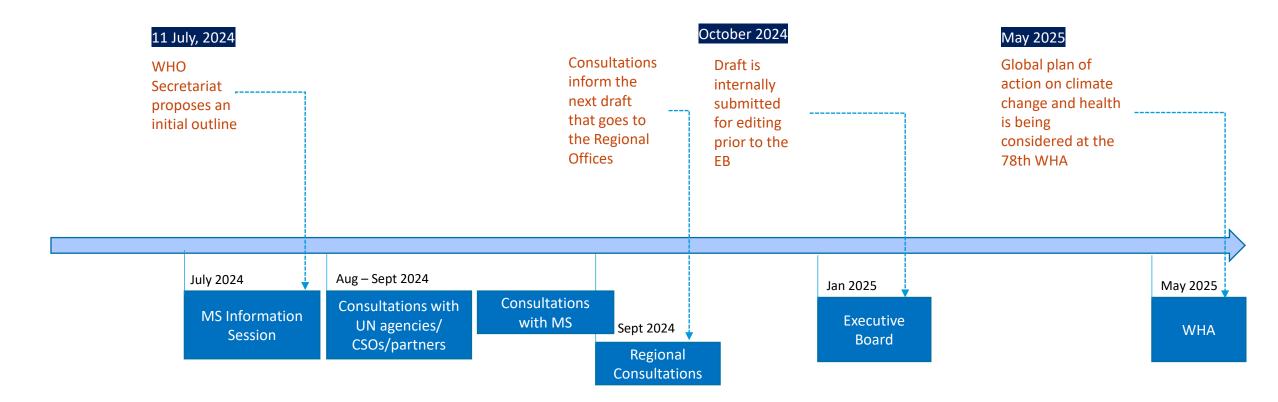


¹ Document A77/4

² WHO issues urgent call for global climate action to create resilient and sustainable health systems. Geneva: Work Health Organization; 24 May 2022 (https://www.who.ine/newe/item/24-05-2023-wha/fe-strategie-roundable-on-health-and-climate, accessed 27 May 2024).

See document EB154/25.

Proposed consultative process





Structure (Illustrative)

STRATEGIC AREA I

Objective 1

Proposed actions for Member States

- 1. ...
- 2. ...

Proposed actions for WHO Secretariat

- 1. ...
- 2. ...

Proposed actions for stakeholders / partners:

- 1. ...
- 2. ..

Objective 2

Proposed actions for Member States

- 1. ..
- 2. ...

Proposed actions for WHO Secretariat

- 1. ...
- 2. ..

Proposed actions for stakeholders / partners:

- 1. ...
- 2. ...

STRATEGIC AREA II

Objective 1

Proposed actions for MS, WHO, Stakeholders

Objective 2

Proposed actions for MS, WHO, Stakeholders, etc.



Proposed strategic areas



Leadership & Coordination



Country-level action & Capacity building



Partnerships & Advocacy



Evidence & Monitoring



Leadership and Coordination



Overaching goal:

- Health prioritized in national and international climate policy

- Fostering integrated and coherent actions on climate change and health at national and global levels;
- Promoting the inclusion of health and health co-benefits in the national and global climate agenda;
- Leading by example, incl. by establishing a WHO Roadmap to Net Zero by 2030.



Country-level action and capacity building



Overaching goals:

- Increased action on climate change adaptation & mitigation that maximizes health benefits;
- Establishing health systems that are climate resilient, low-carbon and environmentally sustainable.

- Implementing interventions for health systems to respond to and prepare for a rapidly changing climate, including via the WHO-led Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH);
- Increasing the access to climate finance for health;
- Integration of health in national climate plans and strategies, including the health components of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), healthy Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-term Low-Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS);
- Develop climate-informed public health programmes which protect populations from climate-sensitive health risks;
- Capacity-building of health professionals and providing training to health professionals on the interlinkages between climate change and health.



Partnerships and Advocacy



Overaching goal:

- Health community empowered, informed and effectively engaged to support climate action.

- Raising awareness on climate risks to health through effective communications;
- Promoting representation of health actors in climate national and global fora;
- Strengthening collaborations and emphasizing the interlinkages between health and other sectors and the need for cross-sectoral cooperation.



Evidence and Monitoring



Overaching goal:

- Robust, relevant evidence base available and connected directly to policy, implementation, and monitoring.

- Strengthening the knowledge and evidence base through conducting research and collecting evidence on the interconnections between climate change, climate action and health;
- Monitoring progress towards national and global targets;
- Shaping the global research agenda.



Example

Global target: Establishing health systems that are climate resilient, low-carbon and environmentally sustainable.

Objective: Lower-carbon health systems and societies are contributing to health and wellbeing.

Proposed actions for Member States:

- Promotion of a comprehensive approach to minimize carbon emissions from health systems, while also reinforcing UHC and health resilience to climate risks;
- Addressing the triple planetary crisis, including climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss;
- Provision of climate resilient diets (healthy and sustainable) in health facilities.

Proposed actions for WHO Secretariat:

- Development of norms, standards, policy guidance and builds capacity in countries to reduce carbon emissions from the health sector, and engage other sectors (such as food, transport, energy) impacting health to reduce their emissions;
- Technical, capacity building and implementation support for MS to implement WHO's Operational Framework for Building Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Environmentally Sustainable Health Systems.

Proposed actions for stakeholders:

 Implementation support and access to finance to provide renewable energy, WASH, waste management and climate resilience in healthcare facilities in LMICs.



Coordination, monitoring and evaluation

Internally across three levels of WHO - through a dedicated Climate Change and Health Steering Group (CCHSG), meet on a quarterly basis

On a global level, WHO Director-General will call for regular meeting of the heads of the leading international health agencies

Reporting on global progress

In line with Resolution WHA77.14 - to the World Health Assembly in 2025, 2027 and 2029.



Discussion

