

Health: IPCC WGII Climate Change 2022 Report

The COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted the fragile relationship between humans, animals, and the environment. Today, climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity. More extreme weather events threaten healthcare systems when they are most needed. Human health and equity must be central to all climate change adaptation and resilience actions, to limit global warming and avert an impending health catastrophe.

The [IPCC report](#) outlined a range of effective adaptation efforts to build climate-resilient health systems, reduce climate-related risks to human health, and strengthen health system responses to future climate risks.

1. Proactive Adaptation

Many of the risks to human health and health systems can be reduced or avoided with timely and effective adaptation. This includes redesigning health policies to take account of projected climate change risks and resulting health burdens.

2. Increase investment and finance for health

Currently, less than 1% of international climate finance is dedicated to climate change adaptation in the health sector. To avoid climate-related deaths and illness, policymakers need to unlock significant resources to strengthen health systems and responses, especially for communities at the highest risk of exposure to climate hazards.

3. Improve resiliency of public health systems

As the impacts of climate change worsen, the resiliency of public health systems must be strengthened to mitigate the impacts of climate change on peoples' physical and mental health. This includes building climate-resilient healthcare facilities and health information systems, improving emergency preparedness and management, and integrating risk monitoring and early warning systems.

4. Transition to low-carbon societies

Transitioning to equitable, low-carbon societies will bring important benefits for health and wellbeing. For example, access to affordable renewable energy, active transport (such as cycling), and investment in green buildings in cities are all climate adaptation strategies that will reduce health risks as well as carbon emissions.

5. Reduce risks of involuntary migration and displacement

The frequency and severity of floods, extreme storms, rising temperatures, and droughts due to climate change all have a direct impact on peoples' health and livelihoods, resulting in increased involuntary migration and displacement. This can be mitigated through international collaboration to enhance countries' adaptive capacity so that populations are not displaced because of climate-related risks to their health.

6. Adapt to specific health risks

The changing climate is predicted to impact specific health risks, such as water- and food-borne diseases. Targeted measures to adapt to these risks include improving access to clean water, reducing exposure of water and sanitation systems to flooding and extreme weather, and improved early warning systems.

Adaptation Action Coalition

The Adaptation Action Coalition (AAC) is a state-led coalition of 40 (and counting) member countries driving adaptation action to achieve a climate-resilient world by 2030. By accelerating global action on adaptation, the AAC will help people, economies and the planet become more resilient and equitable.



To find out more visit the AAC website.

To learn more about joining, contact AAC@wri.org

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