



**COP28
UAE**

PRESS RELEASE

Over 120 countries back COP28 UAE Climate and Health Declaration delivering breakthrough moment for health in climate talks

- The COP28 Presidency, in partnership with the World Health Organization and UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention, unveiled the 'COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health' to place health at the heart of climate action and accelerate the development of climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable health systems.
- A set of new finance commitments on climate and health was announced to back up these political commitments, including a USD 300 million commitment by the Global Fund to prepare health systems, USD 100 million by the Rockefeller Foundation to scale up climate and health solutions, and an announcement by the UK Government of up to GBP 54 million. The Declaration is announced ahead of the first ever Health Day at a COP and joins a series of announcements made during the World Climate Action Summit to keep 1.5C within reach.
- Endorsed by 123 countries, the Declaration marks a world first in governments acknowledging the growing health impacts of climate change on communities and countries. It also acknowledges the large benefits to people's health from stronger climate action, including by reducing air pollution and lowering health care costs.
- For the first time, Health Ministers are attending the annual UN climate conference alongside their peers from Environment Ministries. This signals a shift in how climate policies are considered, with a stronger focus on the social implications of government decisions.
- The announcement comes as annual deaths from polluted air hit almost 9 million, heat-related illness and death on the rise, and as 189 million people are exposed to extreme weather-related events each year.

Dubai, 2 December: Today the COP28 Presidency joined with the World Health Organization to announce a new 'COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health' (the Declaration) to accelerate actions to protect people's health from growing climate impacts. The Declaration was announced at the World Climate Action Summit, where world leaders have gathered for the start of COP28.

Signed by 123 countries, the Declaration is announced one day ahead of the first ever Health Day at a COP and marks a world first in acknowledging the need for governments to protect communities and prepare healthcare systems to cope with climate-related health impacts such as extreme heat, air pollution and infectious diseases.

The Declaration was developed with the support of a number of 'country champions' including Brazil, Malawi, the UK, the US, the Netherlands, Kenya, Fiji, India, Egypt, Sierra Leone, and Germany. This joint action comes as annual deaths from polluted air hit almost 9 million and as 189 million people are exposed to extreme weather-related events each year.

"The impacts of climate change are already at our door. They have become one of the greatest threats to human health in the 21st century. Governments have now rightly recognized health as a crucial element of climate action" said COP28 President **Dr Sultan Al Jaber**. He continued "the Declaration sends a strong signal that we must reduce global emissions and work together to strengthen our health systems".

"The climate crisis is a health crisis, but for too long, health has been a footnote in climate discussions," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization. "WHO thanks the UAE for making health a key priority in its COP28 Presidency, and welcomes this declaration, which emphasizes the need to build climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems, to protect the health of both planet and people."

"Climate change is increasingly impacting the health and wellbeing of our communities," said **Lazarus Chakwera**, President of Malawi - one of the first countries to endorse the Declaration. "Malawi has experienced these impacts first-hand – extreme weather events have displaced tens of thousands of our citizens and sparked infectious disease outbreaks that have killed thousands more. This year, at COP28, we are calling for a bolder path forward that prioritizes investments in health and wellbeing, ensures a just transition away from fossil fuels, and creates a healthier future for all of us."

The Declaration covers a range of action areas at the nexus of climate and health, including building more climate-resilient health systems, strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration to reduce emissions and maximize the health benefits of climate action, and increasing finance for climate and health solutions. Signatories have also committed to incorporate health targets in their national climate plans and improve international collaboration to address the health risks of climate change, including at future COPs.

It is also recognized that finance will be a significant driver of the Declaration's success.

As such, the COP28 Presidency joined with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Green Climate Fund, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the World Health Organization to unveil a set of ten principles to bolster financing for climate and health, mobilize new and additional finance, and foster innovation with transformative projects and new multisector approaches. Endorsed by over 40 financing partners and civil society organizations, the [COP28 Guiding Principles for Financing Climate and Health Solutions](#) signal the growing collaboration across funders and the momentum to support climate and health solutions in a sustainable manner.

It also welcomed the finance announcements made by a wide range of stakeholders including governments, development banks, multilateral institutions, philanthropies, and NGOs to expand

their investments in climate and health solutions. Collectively, these partners have committed to dedicate USD 1 billion to address the growing needs of the climate-health crisis.

“International cooperation is essential to ensuring healthy, resilient communities in vulnerable regions grappling with the effects of climate change. The Green Climate Fund is a proud partner and signatory to the Guiding Principles, which are an important framework for coalescing partners around strategies to mobilize more finance for climate-informed health investments in countries that need them the most,” said Mafalda Duarte, GCF Executive Director.

The COP28 Presidency recognizes that reducing the health impacts of climate change will require action across all of society, including rapid and large-scale action to decarbonize energy systems to reduce emissions by at least 43% over the next seven years.

To this end, the announcement of the Declaration at the World Climate Action Summit on December 2nd was just one of a number of announcements from the COP28 Presidency, which recognized the need to reduce the health impacts of climate change beyond the health sector and included new initiatives to drive rapid decarbonization to reduce emissions by at least 43% over the next seven years to keep 1.5C within reach.

On 3 December – COP28’s Health Day - will see the first ever climate and health Ministerial at a COP. Ministers of Health and senior health delegations from over 100 countries are expected to attend. The COP28 Presidency will also gather climate and global health financiers, development banks, countries, philanthropies, and the private sector to respond to the country priorities and needs raised at COP28 and scale up finance interventions that will protect and promote human health.

ENDS

Notes to Editors COP28 UAE:

- COP28 UAE is taking place at Expo City Dubai from November 30-December 12, 2023. The Conference is expected to convene over 70,000 participants, including heads of state, government officials, international industry leaders, private sector representatives, academics, experts, youth, and non-state actors.
- As mandated by the Paris Climate Agreement, COP28 UAE will deliver the first ever Global Stocktake – a comprehensive evaluation of progress against climate goals.
- The UAE will lead a process for all parties to agree upon a clear roadmap to accelerate progress through a pragmatic global energy transition and a “leave no one behind” approach to inclusive climate action.
- The full list of countries who have signed the Declaration can be found on the COP28 website [here](#).
- You can find the Guiding Principles for Financing Climate and Health Solutions [here](#).

Summary of the initiatives and financial commitments for climate and health:

The **Asian Development Bank** announced the launch of a new Climate and Health Initiative, dedicating an initial allocation of \$7 million in seed funding over the coming year to jump-start i)

knowledge generation, 2) innovative financing, 3) country capacity building, 4) strategic partnerships, 5) incubating innovations, and 6) high level advocacy on climate change and health. The Initiative, housed at ADB, is expected to catalyze at least \$10 for each \$1 of seed investments through co-financing and co-investments. The Initiative is one of ADB's priorities under its 2023 – 2030 Climate Change Action Plan that will provide \$120 million in climate finance. In addition, ADB has committed to a target of at least 15% of its annual health portfolio to support climate-focused projects, a commitment which will mobilize significant resources for climate and health actions in the coming years. For more information, contact: Andrew Achimu, aachim@adb.org.

The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** announced \$57.95 million towards climate and health. This includes a \$50 million investment over the coming four years to support climate-focused malaria efforts to better understand, detect and respond to changing vector habitat and endemicity ranges, and to develop new tools and strategies to respond to climate-related changes and disruptions in the malaria response. In addition, the Foundation will contribute \$7.95 million to a Grand Challenges Request for Proposal focused on transdisciplinary approaches to better adapt to, mitigate, or reverse the combined deleterious effects of climate change on health and agriculture. This includes early warning and disease surveillance to respond to climate-event-driven surges in malaria and other vector borne diseases, as well as improved mapping of expanded vector ranges and vector-borne disease transmission.

Wellcome Trust announced it will be spending £100mn in the coming year alone supporting research to understand and address the climate change health crisis, especially to support actions that benefit the most affected people and communities. The aim of this investment is to put health research at the heart of climate decision-making, building momentum for healthy global climate mitigation and adaptation action.

Bloomberg Philanthropies, Clean Air Fund and C40 Cities, announced an initial eleven cities to join the Breathe Cities Initiative – an ambitious new **\$30 million** clean air initiative to accelerate progress, break down barriers to action, and ensure communities around the world have access to clean air. The selected cities will receive support to enhance air quality data, community engagement, and policy development with an aim of reducing air pollution 30% by 2030 and preventing nearly 40,000 premature deaths in selected cities. For more information, contact: mcohen@bloomberg.org.

The **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria** announced grant funding of at least \$500 million to support low- and middle-income countries in addressing health impacts of climate change over 2024 – 2026. Included in this, the Global Fund will provide at least US\$200 million in grant funding to significantly reduce the risk of child mortality from malaria in climate vulnerable countries where seasonal patterns are already being disrupted by climate change. It will provide \$295 million in grants to enhance disease surveillance and early warning systems which will help countries integrate climate data and better detect and manage climate-sensitive disease outbreaks and health emergencies triggered by climate hazards. Additionally, the Global Fund announced initial capital of \$12 million for an Emergency Fund that will provide rapid and flexible funding to respond to the increasingly frequent and severe climate emergencies damage to healthcare systems and the health of communities. Recognizing the extensive overlap of vulnerability to disease and climate change, the Global Fund will continue to invest at the intersection of climate and health in the years ahead. As part of this, it also announced [a strategic partnership with the Green Climate Fund and] a new Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank to build climate-resilience of health systems in the most

climate-vulnerable countries with high disease burden. For more information, contact: Christy.Feig@theglobalfund.org and Ravini.Senanayake@theglobalfund.org.

The Rockefeller Foundation announced at COP28 a \$100 million commitment to advancing climate and health solutions, re-imagining the Foundation's 110-year legacy in global health for the climate era. This announcement, the first by the Foundation on climate and health, advances the Guiding Principles for Financing Climate and Health Solutions which the Foundation co-convened together with the COP28 Presidency, World Health Organization, Green Climate Fund, and the Global Fund. This announcement is part of the Foundation's Climate Strategy, announced in September, to mobilize \$1 billion over the coming five years to advance the global climate transition and help ensure everyone can participate in it. The investment will focus on community driven innovations in low- and middle-income countries that either mitigate or enable people to adapt to the effects of climate change on their health. For more information, contact: Ashley Chang achang@rockfound.org and Estelle Willie ewillie@rockfound.org.

The **UK** will provide up to £18m to support partner countries to assess vulnerability, identify priority actions and support planning, with a view to mobilise the necessary financial and expert resources to increase investments to adapt and strengthen health systems to better cope with the impacts of climate change. This is the first such climate-health programme announced by a G7 country. Furthermore, 20% of the £80 million the UK pledged to the Global Financing Facility in October, that operates in about 40 countries, will be spent on climate and health. Recognising the fast-evolving agenda and need for a stronger evidence base of what works to address the accelerating threats from climate change to health, we are also designing a new £20m research programme that will build on UK experience and beyond. This is in addition to the existing £20million action orientated climate and health research programme launched at COP26 through the National Institute for Health and Care Research. Projects under this programme will begin work in 2024, and will aim to generate evidence to strengthen health service delivery and resilience in low and middle income countries in the context of extreme weather events, through equitable partnerships between leading UK research institutions and partners in Africa, South and South-East Asia. We will continue to encourage and work with partners internationally to build a healthier future for all.

Foundation S is committed to raising awareness of the impact of climate change on health and to accelerating global financial support for climate adaptation in countries where climate change is already a reality. Foundation S has pledged \$42 million through 2030 to support community-led adaptation solutions to climate change, following the "Time to Adapt" Report issued by Foundation S's think-tank, The Collective MindS Climate Council. This funding will go to local organizations and social innovators on the frontlines of the climate crisis, creating sustainable solutions leveraging public-private partnerships with local actors. Building on this, Foundation S is also pleased to support a new public-private effort to strengthen community resilience against the health implications of climate change, in collaboration with the Global Grand Challenges Africa, Rwanda, Brazil, Ethiopia and India, alongside the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Wellcome. The results of this work will help facilitate the much-needed evidence and data required to support innovative approaches for climate adaptation at the local level - and address the critical intersection of climate change, health, agriculture, and gender. For more information, contact: FoundationS@freuds.com.

AVPN and **Bayer Foundation** announced a partnership to tackle the intersectionality of climate and health. This partnership will build the ecosystem infrastructure for Asian funders of all types to find collaborative pathways to developing their intersectional climate-health strategies,

ensuring the agendas are locally owned and led while enhancing the likelihood of successful deployment of capital. The program will increase awareness of climate and health among social investors in Asia, build a shared understanding of principles for financing climate and health solutions to enable a catalytic role for capital from philanthropy to blended finance, spotlight local innovative solutions and mobilize capital into investable projects marketplace for Asia, amplify Asian led climate and health initiatives, and enhance visibility for pathfinder partners and their work to attract future collaborations. For more information, contact: aravind.srinivasan@avpn.asia and bhawani.maurya@avpn.asia.

The **Global Grand Challenges** network of partners will announce a joint funding call of approximately \$12 million to support innovators addressing the critical intersection of climate change, health, agriculture, and gender. The partners include Science for Africa Foundation-Grand Challenges Africa; Grand Challenges Rwanda; Grand Challenges Brazil; Grand Challenges Ethiopia; and Grand Challenges India in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, Foundation S-The Sanofi Collective S, Rockefeller Foundation and Pasteur Network. This funding follows a 2022 climate and health call for applications by Grand Challenges Canada and the South African Medical Research Council-Grand Challenges South Africa. For more information, contact: Juliette Mutheu, j.mutheu@scienceforafrica.foundation.

The **Green Climate Fund** announced the launch of a \$1.5 million Project Preparation Facility (PPF) grant, with matching funding of \$1.55 million from the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization. The PPF grant will support preparation of a \$122 million climate and health global programme with the aim to develop and operationalize a multi-partner Climate and Health Co-Investment Facility. This Facility will leverage public and private capital to promote climate resilient, sustainable, and low-carbon health systems, assisting countries to implement the health commitments made at COP26 and through the WHO's Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health.

The **Global Environment Facility** announced a \$17.85 million partnership with the United Nations Development Program and the World Health Organization to increase health system resilience in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The project is the largest GEF investment to date designed to prepare national and local health systems for climate change and enhance the ability of health systems to respond to climate health risks. The initiative will be supported by co-financing from the four partner countries, all of which are already experiencing significant climate-related health impacts. As part of its \$35 million investment in the Africa Minigrids Program, which is designed to accelerate decentralized off-grid electrification in Sub-Saharan African countries, the GEF is also supporting the provision of modern and reliable clean electricity services to more than 100 rural clinics across 15 African countries.

A groundbreaking set of new commitments from **Evidence Action**, totalling \$55 million will bring safe drinking water to tens of millions, building climate resilience and improving child health. This historic investment by governments including India and Malawi; private philanthropies including the Philanthropy Asia Alliance; and NGO Evidence Action will fund transformative chlorination interventions to make water from any source safe to drink. With Nobel Laureate and University of Chicago economist Michael Kremer's research showing chlorine treatment can reduce child mortality by 25%, tens of thousands of lives will be saved, including through the commitment of India's Jal Jeevan Mission to rapidly scale up safe tap water using evidence-backed chlorination methods. For more information contact: grace.hollister@evidenceaction.org.

