COP28 UAE Climate Health Funding – 2nd December 2023

Summary climate and health initiatives and financial commitments:

The Asian Development Bank announced the launch of a new Climate and Health Initiative, dedicating an initial allocation of USD $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 USD $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.

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The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced USD $57.95 million towards climate and health. This includes a USD $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 USD $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 £100 million in the coming year 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 USD $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.

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The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria announced grant funding of at least USD $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 USD $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 USD $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.

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The Rockefeller Foundation announced at COP28 a new USD $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 USD $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.

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The United Kingdom will provide up to £18 million 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, a new £20 million research programme will be designed to on UK experience and beyond. This is in addition to the existing £20 million 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 USD $42million 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.

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**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.

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The **Global Grand Challenges** network of partners will announce a joint funding call of approximately USD $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.

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The Green Climate Fund announced the launch of a USD$1.5 million Project Preparation Facility (PPF) grant, with matching funding of USD$1.55 million from the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization. The PPF grant will support preparation of a USD $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 USD $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 USD $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 USD $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.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance announced INFUSE 2.0, which will seek innovative solutions to enable health systems to effectively manage resilient and climate-adaptive responses to climate threats. The Innovation for Uptake, Scale and Equity in Immunisation program (INFUSE), first launched in 2016, identifies proven solutions which, when brought to scale, have the most potential to modernize global health and immunization delivery, and “infuses” them with the necessary capital, expertise, and support to bring them to scale. The climate crisis stands as the foremost health threat to humanity, with profound implications for immunisation programs supported by Gavi. Thus, INFUSE 2.0 will support innovations to develop low-carbon and sustainable healthcare systems, and enhance the skills of the health workforce to anticipate, navigate, and respond to climate-related challenges and disruptions. The Cola-Cola Foundation and Project Last Mile, Google, Workday, the Rockefeller Foundation, and Alwaleed Philanthropies have all supported INFUSE 2.0, with total contributions and their matching reaching above US$6 million.