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# Global Model WHO 2024

COMMITTEE A1

# ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

CLIMATE CHANGE,  
POLLUTION AND HEALTH

Geneva, Switzerland  
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*The Most Accurate Simulation of the World Health Assembly*

## GA1: Climate Change, Pollution and Health

The agenda item on Climate Change, Pollution and Health focuses on the interconnectedness of our environment and public health, recognizing that climate change and pollution are significant determinants of health outcomes worldwide.

Climate change impacts health directly through extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, floods, and storms, and indirectly through altering disease patterns, food insecurity, and water quality, amongst many others. The WHA emphasizes the need for robust health systems capable of managing these changes. This includes reducing health system emissions, enhancing surveillance and response systems for climate-sensitive diseases, promoting climate-resilient health infrastructure, and integrating climate considerations into public health planning.

Pollution, particularly air pollution, is another critical focus. It is a leading cause of mortality, contributing to respiratory diseases, cardiovascular conditions, and cancer which cause an estimated 7 million premature deaths annually. The WHA agenda underscores the importance of reducing pollution through regulatory measures, technological innovations, and international cooperation. Member States are encouraged to adopt clean energy solutions, improve waste management practices, and enforce air quality standards to mitigate the health impacts of pollution.

The WHA also highlights the disproportionate impact of climate change and pollution on vulnerable populations, including low-income communities, children, the elderly, and those with preexisting health conditions. Addressing these disparities is crucial for achieving health equity. The Assembly advocates for targeted interventions that protect and empower these groups, ensuring they are not left behind in climate mitigation and adaptation, and pollution control efforts.

Furthermore, the WHA agenda promotes the role of health systems in climate mitigation. Health facilities are significant energy consumers and waste producers. By transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and adopting sustainable waste management practices, the health sector can significantly reduce its carbon footprint.

Overall, the WHA agenda item on Climate Change, Pollution, and Health underscores the urgency of integrated actions to protect public health in the face of environmental challenges. By addressing these issues collectively, the WHA aims to foster sustainable, resilient health systems capable of safeguarding the well-being of populations worldwide.

# Key Points and Main Issues Delegates Need to Understand about Climate Change, Pollution and Health

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The interlinkages between climate change, pollution and health are intricate and deeply connected, with each exacerbating the other and together posing significant risks to both the environment and human health. What follows is an outline of the key points and issue associated with this topic:

## 1. The Direct Impact of Climate Change on Human Health:

- Climate change is leading to more frequent and intense heatwaves, which cause heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion, heatstroke, and exacerbates pre-existing conditions like heart and respiratory diseases. Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and outdoor workers, are most affected.
- Climate change is increasing the frequency of natural disasters like hurricanes, floods, droughts, and wildfires. These events cause injuries, disrupt healthcare services, and lead to long-term public health crises by damaging infrastructure and increasing the spread of diseases.
- Rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns are expanding the habitats of disease-carrying insects like mosquitoes, leading to the spread of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, and Zika virus to new regions.

## 2. The Role of Air Pollution in Global Health:

- Air pollution, largely driven by the burning of fossil fuels, is one of the leading causes of premature deaths globally. It contributes to 7 million deaths each year due to conditions like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer.
- In many developing countries, indoor air pollution from burning biomass (wood, charcoal, animal dung) for cooking and heating is a significant health threat, particularly to women and children. This pollution contributes to respiratory diseases and worsens health inequalities.
- Studies show that exposure to air pollution can affect cognitive development in children and even contribute to mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression.

# Key Points and Main Issues Delegates Need to Understand about Climate Change, Pollution and Health (cont.)

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## 3. Climate Change and Water-Related Health Challenges:

- Climate change is worsening water scarcity in many regions, leading to a lack of access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Contaminated water can spread waterborne diseases like cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid, especially in vulnerable populations.
- Extreme rainfall and flooding caused by climate change can contaminate water supplies, leading to outbreaks of waterborne diseases. In regions with poor sanitation, flooding exacerbates the risk of diseases.

## 4. Pollution and the Impact on Ecosystems and Food Security:

- Industrial activities and agricultural run-off can contaminate soil and water sources with harmful chemicals and heavy metals, which not only affect ecosystems but also enter the human food chain. Long-term exposure to these pollutants can cause cancer, birth defects, and other chronic diseases.
- Climate change and pollution can reduce agricultural productivity due to changing weather patterns, desertification, and contamination of crops and fisheries. Malnutrition and food insecurity lead to weakened immune systems, making populations more vulnerable to diseases.

## 5. The Global Health Inequality Caused by Climate Change and Pollution:

- While climate change and pollution affect all populations, they disproportionately harm the poorest and most vulnerable communities, who have less capacity to adapt and fewer resources to address health challenges.
- Populations in low-income countries face greater exposure to environmental hazards, often live in areas with poor air quality, lack access to clean water, and have less access to healthcare, increasing their vulnerability to the health impacts of climate change and pollution.

## 6. Mental Health and Climate Change:

- Climate Anxiety and Trauma: The long-term mental health impacts of climate change are becoming more evident, particularly among young people. Climate anxiety—worry about the future of the planet—and trauma from experiencing natural disasters are leading to increased levels of anxiety, depression, and stress.

# Key Points and Main Issues Delegates Need to Understand about Climate Change, Pollution and Health (cont.)

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## 7. International Efforts and Policy Responses:

- The Paris Agreement: As part of the international effort to combat climate change, the Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming to below 2°C, with efforts to keep it to 1.5°C. There is an urgent need for global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent the worst health impacts of climate change. Delegates should explore policies that focus on transitioning to renewable energy, improving public transportation, and investing in climate-resilient health systems.
- In developing countries, there is often tension between economic development and environmental protection. Delegates should discuss how countries can pursue sustainable development that reduces pollution and addresses climate change while promoting economic growth and poverty reduction.
- The UN's Sustainable Development Goals link health, environmental sustainability, and social equity. Goals like SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) emphasize the need for integrated approaches to address climate change, pollution, and health challenges.
- Solutions should include funding for climate adaptation in low-income countries, improving healthcare access, and strengthening international cooperation on environmental health.
- Delegates should consider discussing carbon pricing, green energy incentives, and banning harmful chemicals to protect both the environment and human health.

## 8. Technology and Innovation in Combating Pollution and Climate Change:

- Technologies such as clean energy technologies, improved waste management systems, and health monitoring technologies, to mitigate the effects of environmental degradation on human health can play an important role in reducing the health impacts of climate change and pollution.

## [Resolution WHA 76.17 - The Impact of Chemicals, Waste and Pollution on Human Health](#) **2023**

( Pages 46-52)

Summary: Resolution WHA 76.17 focuses on advancing universal health coverage by strengthening health systems. It calls for improved investment in health infrastructure to ensure that essential services are accessible to everyone. The resolution highlights the need for sustainable funding and integrating primary health care to enhance system resilience. It also stresses the importance of global cooperation to support these goals.

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## [Press Release on COP28 UAE Climate and Health Declaration](#) **2023**

Summary: This Press Release from COP28 announces the groundbreaking ‘COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health’ that aims to accelerate actions to protect people’s health from growing climate impacts and puts health at the center of the climate agenda. The Declaration was announced at the World Climate Action Summit.

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## [COP28 UAE Climate and Health Declaration](#) **2023**

Read the actual Declaration described in the Press Release above.

Intro Adaptation and Mitigation

Two words you will hear a lot when discussing climate change is adaptation and mitigation. You need to understand what they are and how they relate to health and well-being. Here are two sites to introduce these key concepts.

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## [What is Climate Change Mitigation and Why is it Urgent?](#) **2024**

Summary: This article published by UNDP provides a basic introduction to the concept of mitigation which focuses on reducing or preventing greenhouse gas emissions. In this annotated bibliography you will find many resources that contain information on the impact of greenhouse gasses on our health and well-being.

## [Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change](#)

NA

Summary: Beyond doing everything we can to cut greenhouse gas emissions and slow the pace of global warming, we must adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change that are happening right now and often impact the most vulnerable populations in low and middle income countries. Researching the links between adaptation and our health and well-being are also important aspects of preparing for the conference. In addition, researching funding mechanisms such as the [loss and damage fund](#) established in Dubai during COP28 is important to support efforts to adapt and build resilience following natural disasters brought on by climate change.

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## [WHO - Household Air Pollution](#)

2023

Summary: The text highlights the significant health risks associated with household air pollution, impacting about 2.3 billion people who use outdated cooking methods. This pollution contributes to millions of early deaths each year and is linked to serious illnesses such as stroke, heart disease, and respiratory conditions, with women and children being the most affected. It underscores the need to adopt cleaner cooking technologies and enhance ventilation to mitigate these health issues. Additionally, it stresses the importance of policy reforms to improve health equity, support sustainable development, and tackle climate change.

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## [UNEP One Health | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)

2022

Summary: In March 2022, four major international organizations—the FAO, OIE, UNEP, and WHO—established a collaboration to advance the One Health approach. It promotes coordinated efforts across various sectors to tackle health and environmental issues, ensuring access to clean water, energy, and food, while also addressing climate change and supporting sustainable development. The One Health Joint Action Plan (2022-2026) outlines six key focus areas: boosting health system capacities, managing zoonotic diseases, improving food safety, combating antimicrobial resistance, and integrating environmental considerations.

**Climate change: a threat to human wellbeing and health of the planet. Taking action now can secure our future — IPCC**

**2022**

Summary: The IPCC report reveals that climate change, driven by human actions, is causing widespread disruptions that disproportionately impact vulnerable communities and ecosystems. The report warns that even a small increase in global temperatures will lead to severe and potentially irreversible effects, such as extreme weather events and infrastructure damage. It calls for immediate and substantial efforts to adapt to these changes and significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions to protect future generations and mitigate ongoing risks.

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**Resolution WHA69.4 on The role of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond**

**2016**

Summary: The resolution encourages countries to actively manage chemicals and waste to protect health, urging enhanced collaboration across sectors and adherence to strategic guidelines. It highlights the need to bolster national and regional capabilities, involve various stakeholders, and support WHO's global initiatives. It also asks the Director-General to create a detailed plan for the health sector to achieve the 2020 goals and contribute to the 2030 Agenda. This involves backing legislative efforts, raising public awareness, sharing expertise, and engaging in international chemical management efforts.

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**Resolution WHA68.8 on health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution**

**2015**

Summary: The resolution encourages countries to intensify their efforts to manage air pollution and mitigate its health effects by fostering cooperation across different sectors and levels. It highlights the role of health systems in raising awareness, supporting research, and improving data on air quality impacts. Member States are advised to follow WHO guidelines, promote cleaner technologies, and address pollution from healthcare activities. The resolution also calls for enhanced international collaboration and action to reduce health inequalities related to air pollution. Additionally, it asks the WHO Director-General to bolster support for implementing air quality standards, provide technical assistance, and facilitate research and public education on air pollution.



## [FAO Climate change and food security: risks and responses](#)

2015

Summary: The document explores how climate change jeopardizes food security and nutrition by adversely affecting agriculture, ecosystems, and food systems. It underscores that despite progress in increasing food production, climate-induced impacts make it harder to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The report calls for immediate adaptation measures and resilience-building to safeguard food security and ensure equitable access to nutritious food in the face of evolving environmental challenges.

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## [Resolution WHA63.26 on improvement of health through sound management of obsolete pesticides and other obsolete chemicals](#)

2010

Summary: The text urges Member States to improve their national policies and regulations for managing outdated pesticides and chemicals. It stresses the need for comprehensive national plans and strategies to mitigate risks from these substances and enhance public awareness. The text also highlights the importance of training and capacity building, as well as fostering international cooperation. It calls for the Director-General to support the development of effective management strategies, strengthen WHO's capabilities, and work with global partners to ensure the safe handling and disposal of obsolete chemicals, aiming to reduce their harmful effects on health and the environment.

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## [Why does environment, health and pollution matter? | UNEP](#)

NA

Summary: The text emphasizes the critical link between environmental pollution and health, noting that contaminants in air, water, and soil contribute to various diseases and health issues. It highlights the severe impact of pollutants like heavy metals and microplastics, particularly in low-income regions, and points out that environmental degradation exacerbates these problems. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) addresses these challenges through sustainable development and the One Health approach, aiming to reduce pollution and improve global health.

## [Ensuring safety and health at work in a changing climate | International Labour Organization](#)

2024

Summary: The document highlights that while climate change has recently gained attention, many related workplace hazards are not new. The ILO has established various international standards and guidelines to safeguard workers from these risks, including foundational conventions on occupational safety and health (OSH). The ILO's Global Strategy on OSH 2024-30 advocates for integrating climate-related OSH issues into policy agendas and emphasizes partnerships to address these concerns. It also notes the ILO's involvement in initiatives like the Vision Zero Fund to enhance safety and health in the context of climate change and just transitions.

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## [What You Need to Know About Climate Change and Air Pollution](#)

2022

Summary: A Senior Environmental Engineer at the World Bank explains why addressing air pollution is key to addressing climate change. In the process he answers the following questions: How big a problem is air pollution globally? How is air pollution related to climate change? What are some requirements for effectively addressing air pollution? What are some interventions that countries can implement to reduce air pollution? What is the World Bank doing to help? Can we expect better air quality in the future as countries decarbonize their economies?

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## [Climate impacts of air pollution](#)

2022

Summary: This page from the WHO website looks at the following questions: How are air pollution and climate change linked in terms of health risks? Are there common sources of air pollution and climate-changing pollutants? What are short-lived climate pollutants and how do they impact climate and health?

## Concept Note: Second global conference on air pollution and health

2024

Summary: This Concept Note was written for The Global conference on air pollution and health: Accelerating action for clean air, clean energy access and climate change mitigation which will be held in March 2025 with the aim of highlighting solutions in cities, countries and regions to prevent communicable and noncommunicable disease, save lives, protect child health and limit climate change across the world.

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## Turning off the Tap: How the world can end plastic pollution and create a circular economy

2023

Summary: The report proposes a new system to address the causes of plastic pollution through the creation of a circular economy. Instead of the traditional "take, make, dispose" model, a circular economy focuses on reusing, recycling, and repairing products to extend their life cycle and minimize waste. In a circular economy, an old mobile phone might be recycled to recover valuable materials, or its parts might be reused in new phones, reducing the need for new raw materials. In short, a circular economy keeps products and materials in use for as long as possible, reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainability.

# Statements/Documents issued by Member-States

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## Statements

The following statements on agenda item 16.3 (Social determinants of health) were made during the 76th session of the World Health Assembly which included at least one reference to the Impact of Chemicals, Waste and Pollution on Human Health. In some cases the reference was very short but when it occurred it indicated support of the resolution on the agenda item.

[Belgium \(English\)](#) [Ireland \(English\)](#) [Monaco \(French\)](#) [Panama \(Spanish\)](#)

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## UNFCCC Country statements on climate change

Climate change is one of three elements that will be discussed along with interlinkages with pollution and health. Nonetheless, part of the process is becoming familiar with the position your country has taken on climate change and then integrating it into your research on your country's positions on pollution and how the two impact our health and well-being. The UNFCCC is a large database of documents that include statements Member States have made on climate change at COP28. Use this site to access your country's statement on this issue.

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## Human Health Impacts of Climate Change

**NA**

Summary: The text outlines how climate change impacts human health through both direct effects, like injuries from extreme weather, and indirect effects, such as worsened air quality and altered disease patterns. It highlights the varying health risks based on individual vulnerability and emphasizes the need for targeted public health research and strategies.

# Statements/Documents issued by Regional or Political Groups

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The following statement by a political group on agenda item 16.3 (Social determinants of health) was made during the 76th session of the World Health Assembly which included at least one reference to the Impact of Chemicals, Waste and Pollution on Human Health. Although the reference is very short it indicated support of the resolution on the agenda item.

## [European Union \(English\)](#)

Any government that is a Member of the EU can align their position in support of the resolution on the Impact of Chemicals, Waste and Pollution on Human Health.

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## [UNFCCC Country statements on climate change](#)

[Climate change is one of three elements that will be discussed along with interlinkages with pollution and health. Nonetheless, part of the process is becoming familiar with the position taken by political groups your country belongs to and then integrating it into your research on your country's positions on pollution and how the two impact our health and well-being. The UNFCCC is a large database of documents that include statements political groups have made on climate change at COP28. Use this site to access these statements on this issue.](#)

## Asia Pacific

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**UNDP - For Asia-Pacific, climate change poses an 'existential threat' of extreme weather, worsening poverty and risks to public health**

**2023**

Summary: The text highlights the severe challenges climate change presents to the Asia-Pacific region, such as frequent natural disasters, declining biodiversity, rising sea levels, and increased pandemic risks. It notes that although the region's economic growth has lifted many out of poverty, it has also led to significant environmental damage. The report urges a transition to sustainable development and the use of green technologies to secure a better future for the region.

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**Annual report 2021: WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region**

**2021**

Summary: The WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region (ACE), based in Seoul, South Korea, released its 2021 Annual Report. The report outlines ACE's role as a hub of technical expertise and scientific excellence in areas such as air quality, climate change, water, sanitation, hygiene, and living environments. It also summarizes the key activities conducted throughout the year, details the center's technical focus areas, and includes a glossary for reference.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

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[Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2023 | UNFCCC](#)

**2023**

Summary: This website is about the outcomes of COP28's first global stocktake, which emphasized the need for swift changes in our economic and social systems to tackle climate challenges. It also covers the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week (LACCW) 2023, where various stakeholders explored regional climate solutions and challenges across four key areas: energy, urban and rural development, natural resources, and societal impacts. These discussions aim to guide global climate action efforts.

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[Climate Change and Health - PAHO/WHO](#)

**NA**

Summary: This text explains that climate change is the most significant health threat of the 21st century, already affecting health through extreme weather and related issues like food shortages and diseases. The health sector must reduce its emissions and ensure facilities can withstand disasters. PAHO's program focuses on strengthening health systems to adapt to climate risks, improving infrastructure, and fostering partnerships for resilient healthcare.

## African Group

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[WHO - Climate Change is impacting health in Africa](#)

**2024**

Summary: This text highlights how human-induced climate change accelerates global warming, significantly impacting health, especially in Africa. Despite minimal contributions to global emissions, vulnerable populations face severe consequences like disease spread, food insecurity, and mental health issues. Extreme weather events strain health systems by disrupting services and infrastructure. Building resilience in health systems necessitates a multisectoral approach and a robust health security plan.

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[African Group of Negotiators - Informal Notes | UNFCCC](#)

**2023**

Summary: This paper responds to a request from the COP for input on how to address loss and damage caused by climate change, particularly under the Warsaw International Mechanism. It discusses the challenges faced by African countries, identifies actions that require financial support, and provides recommendations for organizing expert discussions. The submission also offers suggestions for what should be included in a technical paper to improve efforts in managing climate-related loss and damage.



## Europe

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### [Addressing climate change and health in the Europe and Central Asia region](#)

**2020**

Summary: The Joint Value Proposition by UNDP and WHO outlines strategies for enhancing health sector resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Europe and Central Asia amid climate change. It emphasizes the need for the health sector to adapt to climate impacts while also mitigating its own environmental footprint. The document identifies key challenges and barriers to creating a climate-resilient and low-carbon health sector and considers the additional complications posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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### [Public health and climate change adaptation policies in the European Union: final report | WHO](#)

**2018**

Summary: This text presents a joint 18-month project initiated in 2017 by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Commission to analyze how EU countries are adapting their health policies to climate change and to collect best practice case studies. The results highlight robust governance mechanisms but also stress the need for improved technical capacities, especially in evaluating climate-sensitive disease burdens.

## [How climate change is impacting the health of humans](#)

2024

Summary: The CBS video "How Climate Change Is Impacting the Health of Humans" explores the significant effects of climate change on human health. It discusses various health risks associated with climate change, including the increase in heat-related illnesses, respiratory problems due to worsening air quality, and the spread of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue. The video highlights how extreme weather events, such as heatwaves and floods, exacerbate these health issues, particularly affecting vulnerable populations. It emphasizes the need for urgent action to address these health impacts through policy changes and public health interventions.

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## [Toxic chemicals used in food preparation leach into human bodies, study finds](#)

NA

Summary: According to recent research, scientists have found that over 3,600 chemicals used in food packaging, representing about 25% of known food contact chemicals (FCCs), have been detected in human bodies, meaning they are entering our bodies through food packaging. A loophole in regulations is allowing companies to introduce these chemicals into food packaging without any oversight.

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## [Understanding How Climate Change Impacts Human Health](#)

2023

Summary: The Duke University video "Understanding How Climate Change Impacts Human Health" examines the multifaceted effects of climate change on health. It addresses both direct impacts, like injuries from extreme weather, and indirect effects, such as worsened air quality and the spread of diseases. The video also highlights how vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected and underscores the importance of ongoing research and effective public health strategies to mitigate these impacts.

## [IPCC Climate Change is a Health Crisis](#)

2022

Summary: The briefing document summarizes key findings from the 2022 IPCC report, emphasizing that climate change is significantly impacting human health. It outlines how climate-related events like extreme heat and floods are causing a rise in health problems, including disease spread and mental health issues, particularly among vulnerable populations. The document highlights that urgent action is needed to mitigate these health risks by cutting greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening adaptation strategies. Furthermore, it notes that addressing climate change can improve health and economic outcomes, demonstrating the benefits of integrating climate action with public health efforts.

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## [Researching a Circular Economy of Plastics in Health Care | UBC Sustainability](#)

2020

Summary: The EES team at Lower Mainland Health Organizations aims to cut plastic waste and minimize environmental impacts from healthcare. They are investigating how circular economy (CE) principles can enhance sustainability and address public concerns about plastic use. The project focuses on understanding CE, finding ways to apply it to healthcare, and developing a plan for a specific initiative, like using reusable laryngeal masks. The approach includes reviewing relevant literature, interviewing stakeholders, and planning practical steps to overcome challenges and offer recommendations.

# Asia Pacific

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**Managing Air Quality and its Impacts on Health,  
Climate Change and Nature, and Food Security in  
Asia and the Pacific**

**2023**

Summary: The text discusses the critical issue of air quality in Asia and the Pacific, where a vast majority of the population faces health risks due to severe pollution. This pollution stems from industrial activities, transportation, and agricultural practices, and it not only affects health but also contributes significantly to climate change. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is working to address these challenges by supporting initiatives that integrate air quality management with climate action, promoting cleaner energy and technologies. The goal is to improve public health and support sustainable development in the region through coordinated efforts and strategic investments.

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**Climate change and human health in the Asia Pacific  
region: who will be most vulnerable?**

**1998**

Summary: The paper explores how climate change affects the Asia-Pacific region's vulnerability, focusing on five main contributors: rapid development, poverty, rigid politics, dependence on external sources, and geographic isolation. These factors increase the region's susceptibility to environmental threats and limit its ability to adapt. Marginalized populations face the greatest risks, as their limited resources and options make them more vulnerable to health impacts. The study suggests that addressing these vulnerabilities is crucial for reducing the region's overall risk and enhancing resilience against climate change.

# Latin America and the Caribbean

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## [Climate Change and Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

**2024**

Summary: The text highlights that 2023 was the hottest year on record, with temperatures nearly 1.5°C above preindustrial levels, leading to extreme weather events. It discusses how climate-related disasters have increased, affecting economies and causing migration. Recent severe events in Chile, Argentina, and Brazil are emphasized. It points out that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have the potential in renewable energy and green technology to address climate change. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is actively working on climate policy and finance through new initiatives to support regional climate resilience and sustainable development.

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## [The 2023 Latin America report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: the imperative for health-centred climate-resilient development](#)

**2023**

Summary: The text outlines how 2023's climate and political events advanced global health and climate agendas while exposing vulnerabilities. It highlights COP28's Health Day's focus on climate change's health effects and the Global Stocktake's revelation of progress gaps in meeting Paris Agreement goals. The Lancet Countdown Latin America report, now covering 17 countries, details rising health risks from climate change, including heatwaves and disease. It urges better intersectoral policies, a health-centric energy transition, and increased climate finance to address these issues.

# African Group

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**Major polluters exposed: Fossil fuel industry a top source of Africa's air pollution reveals new Greenpeace report**

**2024**

Summary: The Greenpeace report identifies Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa as Africa's top air pollution hotspots, with severe health and climate impacts. Air pollution, driven mainly by fossil fuels and industrial activities, causes up to 1.1 million premature deaths annually in Africa. The report highlights that South Africa's coal power plants are major contributors to nitrogen and sulfur dioxide emissions, and calls for enhanced air quality monitoring and clean technology investments to improve public health and address climate change.

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**Air pollution and climate change - a deadly duo for Africa**

**2022**

Summary: This text addresses the critical issue of air pollution and climate change in Africa. Air pollution, responsible for approximately 1 million deaths annually in the region, exacerbates the effects of climate change, impacting vulnerable populations the most. The Integrated Assessment presented at COP27 identifies crucial sectors—transport, residential, energy, agriculture, and waste—for targeted action. Implementing solutions in these areas can reduce health risks, lower carbon emissions, and enhance food security. With Africa's rapid population growth and economic expansion, addressing these challenges is essential for sustainable development and achieving the goals set by the African Union's Agenda 2063.

## Europe

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### [Climate Change as a threat to health and well being in Europe](#)

**2022**

Summary: The text highlights Europe's urgent need to boost climate change mitigation and adaptation due to health impacts. Rising temperatures increase heat-related illnesses, especially in vulnerable urban populations, and affect occupational health and disease spread. Effective solutions include improved heat management, urban planning, and disease monitoring. Enhancing healthcare system readiness and integrating health with climate adaptation strategies are crucial, though local-level engagement remains low.

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### [How air pollution affects our health | European Environment Agency's home page](#)

**2020**

Summary: The text examines the significant health risks associated with air pollution in Europe, focusing on fine particulate matter (PM2.5), which contributes to various health issues like respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and developmental problems in children. Efforts to address this issue include stricter air quality standards and new regulations. Additionally, it points out that vulnerable and lower-income groups face higher exposure to air pollution, highlighting the need for effective public health interventions and policies



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