
WHO country support on climate change and health



World Health
Organization

Key Focus Areas

To advance climate-resilient health, WHO works in three key focus areas:

**2**

Strengthening the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems and facilities

1

Addressing the wide range of health impacts of climate change



Climate-resilient health

**3**

Promoting the health co-benefits of climate change mitigation in other sectors

Key questions to understand how WHO supports countries' climate change and health efforts?



Question 1: What are the impacts of climate change on health and the potential health co-benefits of climate change mitigation?



Question 2: How do we develop comprehensive plans and strategies to address climate-sensitive health risks and build climate-resilient health systems and facilities?



Question 3: How do we access climate financing for climate change and health, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness programme?



Question 4: What interventions can be implemented to address climate-sensitive health risks and strengthen the resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems and facilities?



Question 5: How do we monitor progress made at national level on climate change and health?

Building climate-resilient health

This document aims to help users navigate the climate change and health technical support package offered by the World Health Organization. It is structured around five key areas of support and explains what tools, resources, and assistance are available.

5. Monitoring climate change and health progress

Regular monitoring of national health sector response to climate change, highlights the progress made by governments towards strengthening the resilience of health systems while identifying priority areas for improvement.

[Learn more →](#)

1. Assessing health risks and co-benefits

Assessing health vulnerability to climate change at population and facility level and understanding the potential health co-benefits of climate action will provide the required evidence to protect and promote health in a changing climate.

[Learn more →](#)

2. Climate change and health planning

Through comprehensive and systematic climate change and health planning, countries can identify required interventions to address climate-sensitive health risks at population and health system and facility level.

[Learn more →](#)

4. Implementing climate change and health interventions

A wide range of interventions and tools are available to support countries in their efforts to strengthen the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems and facilities.

[Learn more →](#)

3. Financing climate change and health

Climate change financing, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), can be accessed to strengthen the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems and facilities and to promote the health co-benefits of mitigation across multiple sectors.

[Learn more →](#)



Question 1: What are the impacts of climate change on health and the potential health co-benefits of climate change mitigation?

WHO supports countries in **assessing** both the health risks of climate change and the health co-benefits of climate mitigation. Some available tools include:



Assessing climate change and health vulnerabilities

Provides information for decision-makers on the extent and magnitude of likely health risks attributable to climate change and identifies options for increasing health system resilience.



Protecting health from climate change: vulnerability and adaptation assessment

View



Assessing climate change vulnerabilities in healthcare facilities

Support countries in understanding vulnerability to specific climate-related hazards and establishing a baseline for resilience.



Checklists to assess vulnerabilities in health care facilities in the context of climate change

View



Assessments of health co-benefits of climate change mitigation

Estimate the potential health implications of national climate policies, e.g outdoor and household air pollution, sustainable and active transport, sustainable food systems and green urban spaces.



Health co-benefits of climate change mitigation

View

[QUESTION 1](#)

[QUESTION 2](#)

[QUESTION 3](#)

[QUESTION 4](#)

[QUESTION 5](#)

Use this menu bar to navigate between the questions

Back to overview

Question 2: How do we develop comprehensive plans and strategies to address climate-sensitive health risks and build climate-resilient health systems and facilities?

WHO assists countries with climate change and health **planning** to address climate-related health risks, strengthen the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems and facilities, and promote health co-benefits of mitigation. Relevant plans include:



Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Reflect countries' ambition towards achieving the goals laid out in the Paris Agreement through mitigation and adaptation targets and activities. The development of health-promoting climate targets and policies provides an opportunity for increased climate ambition.



WHO Review: Health in the Nationally Determined Contributions

View



Health National Adaptation Plans (HNAPs)

Led by the Ministry of Health, as part of the UNFCCC National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, a HNAP sets out a comprehensive set of actions for medium- and long-term climate change adaptation planning for health.



WHO guidance to protect health from climate change through health adaptation planning

View



Quality Criteria for Health National Adaptation Plans

View



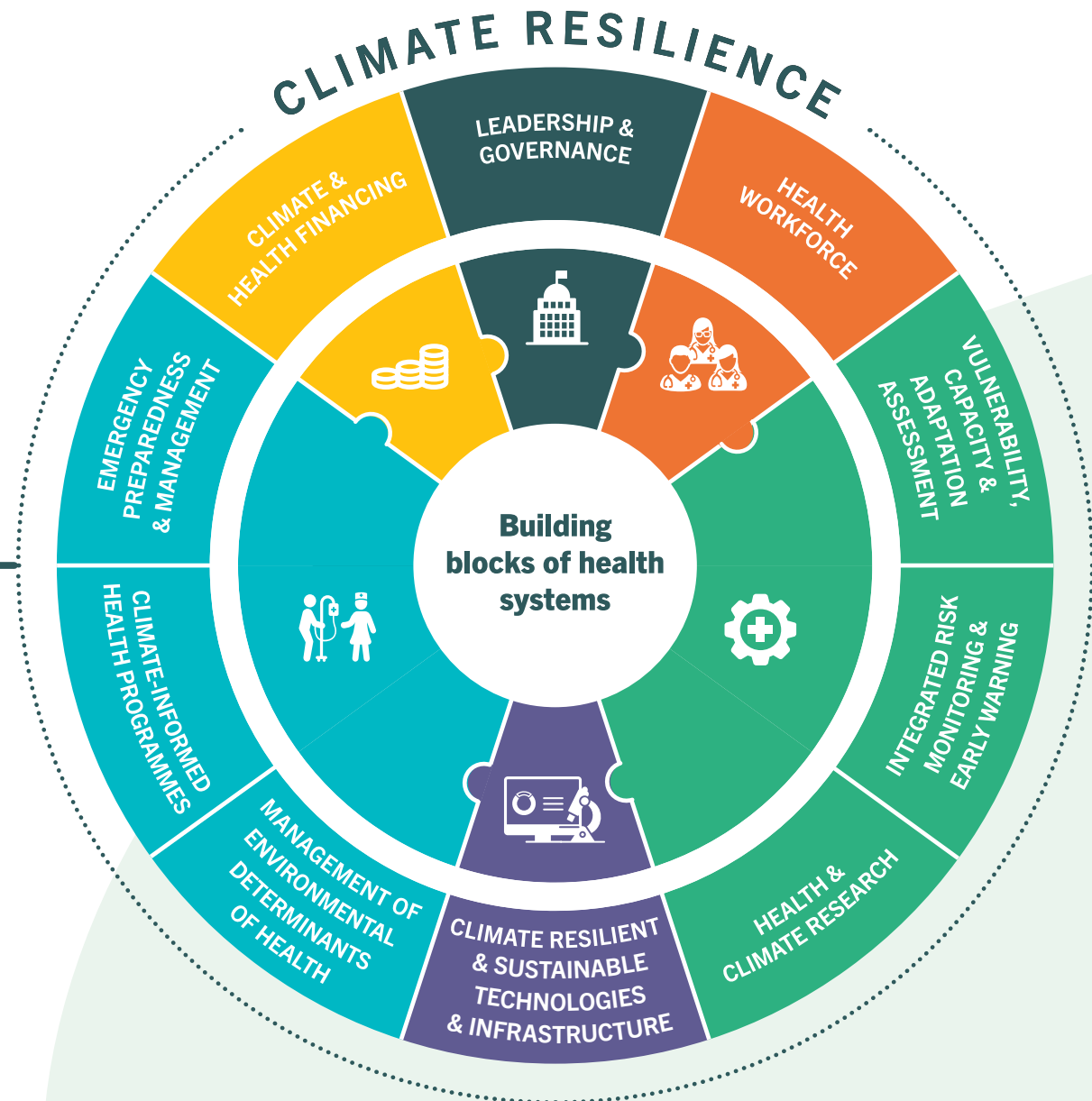
Question 2 continued...

The WHO Operational Framework provides a structure to guide countries in developing plans or designing interventions for strengthening the resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems.

This framework is a critical tool in the preparation of Health National Adaptation Plans (HNAPs)

↳ Operational framework for building climate resilient health systems

[View](#)



Question 3: How do we access climate financing for climate change and health, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness programme?

In addition to bi-lateral funding, various funds have been established to help countries in their adaptation and mitigation actions. WHO supports countries to develop single- and multi-country project proposals to access climate **financing** for health.



Resources for Climate Change Financing

Key climate change funding streams include the Adaptation Fund (AF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

↳ Finance for Health and Climate Change – WHO website

View



WHO as a GCF Readiness Delivery Partner

As a GCF Readiness Delivery Partner WHO can support countries to access to GCF Readiness funds for health. The GCF Readiness Program offers funding to support health adaptation planning, assessments, and institutional strengthening.

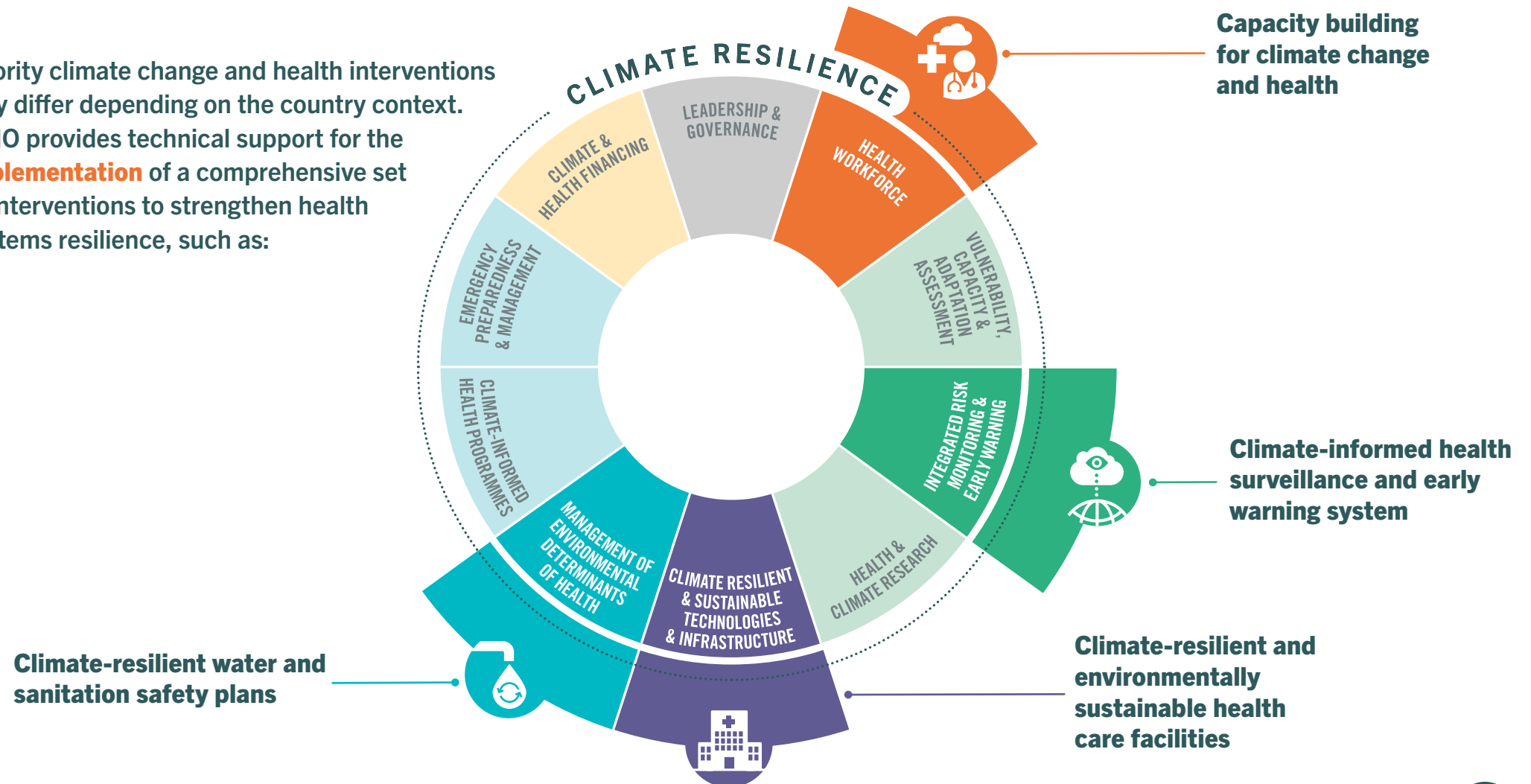
↳ WHO as Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Partner

View



Question 4: What interventions can be implemented to address climate-sensitive health risks and strengthen the resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems and facilities?

Priority climate change and health interventions may differ depending on the country context. WHO provides technical support for the **implementation** of a comprehensive set of interventions to strengthen health systems resilience, such as:



Question 4 continued...



Climate-resilient water and sanitation safety plans

Guidance and technical support on risk assessment and management approaches to address the health impacts of climate change via water and sanitation are available.

↳ Climate-resilient water safety plans

[View](#)

↳ Discussion paper: Climate, Sanitation and Health

[View](#)



Climate-informed health surveillance and early warning system

Guidance, quality criteria, and technical support on climate services for health and climate-informed health early warning systems is provided, including for heat, vector-borne, and water-borne diseases.

↳ Integrated surveillance and climate-informed health early warning systems

[View](#)



Capacity building for climate change and health

Online trainings, webinars, and training packages are available for a wide range of climate change and health related topics.

↳ Building capacity on climate change and health

[View](#)



Climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities

Guidance and technical support are available to support countries designing interventions to strengthen the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of health care facilities.

↳ Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities

[View](#)



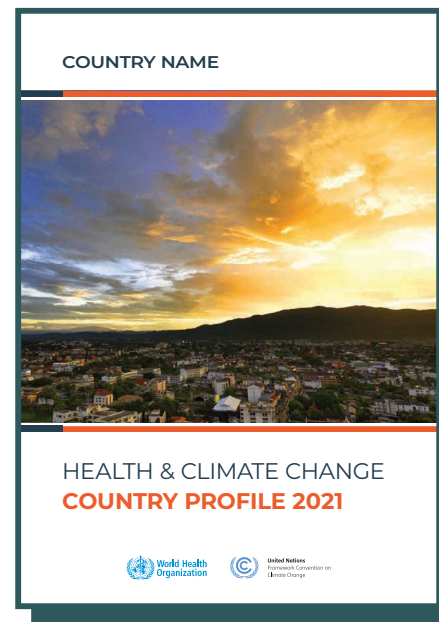
Question 5: How do we monitor progress made at national level on climate change and health?

To assist in **monitoring** progress made on climate change and health at a national and global level WHO utilizes two key initiatives, the **WHO Health and Climate Change Global Survey** and the **WHO UNFCCC Health and Climate Change Country Profiles**. Guidance is also available to support countries measuring climate resilience in health systems.



WHO Health and Climate Change Global Survey

measures and monitors health sector response to climate change. The survey is completed by national health authorities in collaboration with other relevant ministries and stakeholders.



WHO UNFCCC Health and Climate Change Country Profiles

are developed in collaboration with national health authorities and health stakeholders. The profiles present evidence on:

-  current and future climate hazards
-  health risks
-  and potential health co-benefits of mitigation

WHO Health and Climate Change Global Survey Report

View

Guidance for Measuring Climate Resilience of Health Systems

View

WHO UNFCCC Health and Climate Change Country Profiles

View

[QUESTION 1](#)

[QUESTION 2](#)

[QUESTION 3](#)

[QUESTION 4](#)

[QUESTION 5](#)



Back to overview



For more information contact:

Department of Environment, Climate
Change and Health (ECH)
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Email: villalobose@who.int

www.who.int/health-topics/climate-change