



Wednesday, 29 November 2023

MEDIA ADVISORY

World Health Organization at COP28: health highlights for journalists

The World Health Organization (WHO) will be at the 28th United Nations annual climate conference ([COP28](#)), which is taking place from 30 November until 12 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. As in previous UN climate conferences, WHO will be there to promote the health argument for bold, ambitious and urgent climate action that prioritizes the health of people and the planet in countries' climate negotiations.

COP28 will host the [first-ever day dedicated to health](#) and the very first [climate-health ministerial](#), which will bring together ministers of health, environment, climate, finance and other sectors towards more ambitious action to address the rapidly growing burden of climate change on health. The Health Pavilion, the Energy for Health installation, the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH) day and other events organized with various partners will offer a unique opportunity to lift the political profile of the climate and health agenda.

Health Pavilion, 01 to 12 December

The [COP28 Health Pavilion](#), located in the Opportunity Petal, Thematic Arena 2 (TA2 225), Blue Zone, will host a wide range of events to champion the health perspective in climate action, reinforce international cooperation, encourage increased funding for health and bring attention to the most vulnerable populations.

The programme includes almost 40 events, including on accelerating electricity access, building climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems, in

healthcare facilities, fostering the health co-benefits of mitigation measures, climate change and malaria, and climate-resilient food systems.

Key health moments of interest to the press

All times in GST (Gulf Standard Time). Additional details on these and other health events at COP28 are available at <https://climahealth.info/cop28-hub/>. Further information will be provided in WHO COP28 daily media advisories. Journalists need UNFCCC accreditation to access events open to the press.

Friday, 01 December

The climate crisis is a health crisis: uniting to galvanize action towards solutions for climate adaptation

11.15-12.30 GST, COP28 Health Pavilion

The participants in the first session at the COP28 Health Pavilion will discuss concrete strategies and solutions to tackle issues at the nexus of climate and health. Featuring Dr Vanessa Kerry, WHO DG Special Envoy on Health and Seed Global Health CEO, and a video message by WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The session is **open to journalists** and will be **livestreamed** [here](#).

Saturday, 02 December

The World Climate Action Summit Leaders' Event: Putting Health at the Center of the Climate Agenda

11.00-12.00 GST

This COP28 Presidency event will galvanize public and private sector momentum for climate and health. The COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health will be launched at the session, mobilizing political support around shared priorities on the climate health nexus. WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is expected to speak.

Further information: <https://www.cop28.com/en/schedule/leaders-event-putting-health-at-the-center-of-the-climate-agenda>

Energy for Health installation official opening

15.15-16.00 GST, Diamond Area, Blue Zone

The installation shows how decentralized renewable energy solutions can increase the electrification of health care facilities, enable the provision of essential quality health services and build climate-resilient health care systems.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and the principals of UNICEF and Selco Foundation will open the installation. The event is open to journalists.

WHO and Wellcome Trust press conference

16.30-17.00 GST, UNFCCC Media Centre, Blue Zone (in-person)

WHO and Wellcome Trust will brief the news media at COP28 about the Health Day on 3 December, the climate-health ministerial and the importance of prioritizing health in climate negotiations.

Sunday, 03 December

COP28 Health Day

All day, Blue and Green Zone

The first-ever day dedicated to health at the UN Climate Conference aims to catalyze collaborative efforts to safeguard both the planet and the well-being of its inhabitants, underscoring the urgent link between environmental stewardship and human health.

The [Health Day](#) will emphasize the pressing need to address climate change, air quality, and biodiversity loss to mitigate the growing health risks associated with these challenges. Discussions will range from the health co-benefits of carbon reduction to innovative strategies for building resilient healthcare systems in the face of climate-related disasters.

The day's programme is available [here](#); all events will be live-streamed [here](#).

**Health Day opening session:
Unpacking Political and Financial Commitments**

09.30-11.00 GST, Al Waha Theatre

The event will focus on elevating the political profile of climate and health and communicating key messages on key cross-sectoral actions to reduce emissions and improve health, transform health systems and address the health impacts of climate change. It will conclude by unpacking financial and political commitments to address climate and health challenges.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is expected to speak. The event will be live-streamed on [this page](#).

Further information: <https://www.cop28.com/en/schedule/health-day-opening-session-unpacking-political-and-financial-commitments>

**Health adaptation and resilience:
Identifying and scaling adaptation measures to address the
health impacts of climate change**

14.00-15.00 GST, GCA Al Wakri (Arena 2)

The event will present the approach to building public health resilience to climate change that has been developed and piloted over the last decade and place it in the context of the other grand challenges on climate and health - building climate resilient and green health systems, and gaining the health co-benefits of decarbonization. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is expected to speak at the event.

Climate-health ministerial

16.30-19.00 GST, UNFCCC Plenary 2

The COP28 Presidency, the World Health Organization, the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention, and a group of champion countries are hosting the first-ever climate-health ministerial at the UN climate conference. Ministers of health, environment, finance and other related sectors will set out a roadmap and opportunities for action to address the rapidly

growing burden of climate change on healthcare systems and capture the vast socio-economic benefits from better health and well-being through climate action.

The ministers will endorse the political declaration to reflect countries' priorities on climate change and health and support the mainstreaming of health in the climate agenda. The ministerial is open to media and will be live-streamed on the UNFCCC, COP28 and WHO websites.

Further information: <https://www.cop28.com/health-events/climate-health-ministerial>

Monday, 04 December

Building climate-resilient health systems through partnerships like the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH)

13.15.-14.45 GST at SE Room 5

This [UN high-level event](#) will highlight game-changing partnerships and collaborations driving the evolution and sustainability of green health systems. It will emphasize the urgent need to accelerate and scale up these effective collaborations for the transition to a fairer, cleaner, and healthier global environment, now and for the future.

The event is open to media and will be live-streamed [here](#)

ATACH Day at COP28

The Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH) will host a full day of events at the [COP28 Health Pavillion \(Blue Zone\)](#). All events are open to media and will be live-streamed [here](#).

Further information: <https://www.atachcommunity.com/attach-community/news/attach-day-at-the-cop28-health-pavilion/>

Tuesday, 05 December

*The human face of climate change:
Why life-saving malaria programmes are at risk*

17.00-18.15 GST, COP28 Health Pavilion

A high-level dialogue on the status of the fight against one of the world's oldest and deadliest diseases - malaria, the growing threat posed by climate change and what must be done by partners to mitigate this.

The event will be open to media and will be live-streamed [here](#).

Wednesday, 06 December

Launch of air quality data by Partnership for Healthy Cities and Air Pollution Day at the Health Pavilion

Further information and programme: <https://climahealth.info/cop28-hub/>

Resources for journalists

- Global media briefing on climate, health and WHO at COP28, 27/11: Audio (mp3): [listen](#) or [download](#); Full video file (41 min): <https://who.canto.global/b/RIJPV>
- Soundbites (Dr Maria Neira, filmed 27 November 2023, Geneva, Switzerland): English (length: 4mins 46sec, link: <https://who.canto.global/b/K1TTJ>; Shotlist/Transcript (doc): <https://who.canto.global/b/V46T6>; Spanish and French (length: 6mins 19sec, link: <https://who.canto.global/b/TTKM3>, shotlist/transcript (doc): <https://who.canto.global/b/MAC4M>)
- WHO photos <https://photos.hq.who.int/galleries/1595/climate-change-for-press-release>

News products

- [Health needs to be front and centre of national plans to fight climate change](#) (23 Nov 2023)
- [Climate change is an urgent threat to pregnant women and children](#) (21 Nov 2023)
- [Lancet Countdown report calls for climate-driven health action](#) (15 Nov 2023)
- [New operational framework for climate resilient and low-carbon health systems](#) (09 Nov 2023)
- [Climate change is bad for health but climate services save lives](#) (02 Nov 2023), WMO report on the state of climate services for health with WHO contribution
- [We must fight one of the world's biggest health threats: climate change](#), joint op-ed (26 October 2023)
- [Why mental health is a priority for action on climate change](#) (Jun 2022)
- WHO Science in 5: [How is climate change affecting your health?](#) (2023)

Policy and technical products

- WHO [review](#) of health in nationally determined contributions and long-term strategies (2023)
- [Protecting maternal, newborn and child health from the impacts of climate change: call for action](#), advocacy brief (2023)
- [Climate change and non-communicable diseases connections](#) (2023)
- [Facing the Future: Human health and climate change](#), WHO-WTO-WIPO technical symposium (see UN TV [am](#) and [pm session](#))
- [Energizing health: accelerating electricity access in health care facilities](#) (2023)
- [Mental Health and climate change](#), policy brief (2022)

Related links

- [Climate Change and Health](#)
- [Health in climate change talks](#)
- [Health at COP28](#)
- [Environment, Climate Change and Health](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Climate Change](#)
- [Global Knowledge for Climate and Public Health](#)

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