



## WHO Media Advisory

Thursday's health and climate event highlights at COP27!

### **Leaving no one behind: The climate crisis and people with disabilities 17 November 2022, 10:00-11:15 EET**

From higher global temperatures and worsening air pollution, to exposure to extreme weather events such as floods and heatwaves, this event will present an opportunity to hear directly from people living at the intersection of these identities about how the climate crisis threatens their health. It will unpack the existing structural barriers to bring about change and discuss the importance of financing initiatives to ensure peoples with disabilities are meaningfully heard and represented in climate discussions.

Members of the media are welcome to attend.

**Location:** Health Pavilion, Zone C, Pavilion 4, Blue Zone.

### **Human health and Loss and Damage in Africa: science, policy and finance as enablers of action 17 November 2022, 14:00 - 15:15 EET**

Health and climate resilience feature as priority areas for action in the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032) and Agenda 2063. The objectives of the event are to highlight key linkages between human health and (residual) losses and damages in African contexts based on the latest IPCC assessment and transformation necessary to address regional challenges with a particular focus on the role of science, policy and finance mechanisms. In addition, the session will feature solutions for strengthening resilience of health systems through community empowerment with lessons from Africa and beyond including psychosocial support programmes in at-risk areas of Somalia and community-based climate change health education in India.

#### **Speakers:**

Dr. Qudsia Huda, Head of Disaster Risk Management and Resilience at World Health Organization (WHO); Prof. Dr. Maarten van Aalst, Director of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre; Ms. Mercy Grace Munduru, Head of Programs and Fundraising, ActionAid International Uganda; Dr. Sri Hari Govind, Nadam Foundation; *Moderator:* Dr.

Mariya Aleksandrova, Senior Researcher, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Members of the media are welcome to attend.

**Location:** Health Pavilion, Zone C, Pavilion 4, Blue Zone.

## A Healthy Prescription for a Green New Deal: from advocacy to action 17 November 2022, 15:30-16:45 EET

This event will explore effective, health-promoting solutions rooted within a Global Green New Deal, such as many of those recommended in the [Healthy Climate Prescription](#). The growing movement for a Global Green New Deal represents an intersectional and whole-systems-oriented approach to climate action that puts addressing inequity at its core; recognising that climate, health, social and economic justice can only be achieved together. Considering this, the event will also explore the role of the health community in acting in solidarity with the broader climate justice community, for example supporting advocacy efforts towards a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty.

Members of the media are welcome to attend.

**Location:** Health Pavilion, Zone C, Pavilion 4, Blue Zone.

## Responding to Climate Disasters—Perspectives from Emergency Medicine 17 November 2022, 17:00-18:15 EET

The health manifestations of extreme weather events such as heat, tropical cyclones, wildfires, and droughts are only expected to worsen without rapid action. Malnutrition, traumatic injuries, chronic disease exacerbations, behavioral health disorders, and changing infectious disease burdens represent climate-related health impacts. Countries in Africa are particularly susceptible due to location and socioeconomic activities. Emergency units will be on the frontline of addressing the health impacts despite resource limitations and surges in demand for services already. The call for action has been viewed as a significant opportunity for enhanced leadership and commitments focused on mitigation and adaptation in LMICs.

In this session, emergency clinicians and organizations will highlight their experiences in caring for patients with climate-sensitive conditions and vulnerable groups impacted by the climate crisis. The session will conclude with next steps that governments, organizations, and clinicians can take to incorporate health into climate work and better prepare their communities for the next climate-related disaster.

**Speakers (Virtual):** Dr. Alegnta Gebreyesus, Director Emergency, Injury and Critical Care Directorate, Ethiopia; Dr. Wayne Smith, Head of Disaster Medicine and Special Events, Western Cape Government Department of Health and University of Cape Town; Dr. Ginete Kifle, Emergency and Critical Care Medicine Specialist, Ethiopia; Ms. Ivy Muya, Emergency Nurse Specialist, austere environments; Dr. Junaid Razzak, Professor of Emergency Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, USA; Dr. Deepak Narayan Sharma, Emergency Medicine Specialist, Fiji; Dr. Trina Sale, Director of the National Referral Hospital Emergency Department,

Solomon Islands; Dr. Georgina Phillips, Emergency Medicine Specialist and Researcher, Australia; Dr. Emilie Calvello-Hynes, WHO Consultant and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, USA; Ms. Mafoko Phomane, Environmental Health Campaign Manager at groundWork, South Africa; Dr. Lasha Gogvadze, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Members of the media are welcome to attend.

**Location:** Health Pavilion, Zone C, Pavilion 4, Blue Zone.

## **More information**

Keep up to date on the WHO Health-Climate events happening across COP27, please see more information here: <https://www.who.int/news/item/03-11-2022-highlights-of-some-health-key-health-events-at-cop27>

For the programme and brochure of the WHO Health Pavilion, please visit our page here: <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2022/11/06/default-calendar/cop27-health-pavilion>

## **Contacts**

WHO media inquiries: [mediainquiries@who.int](mailto:mediainquiries@who.int)

Yasmeen Ali (WHO Egypt Communications Officer): WhatsApp +20 1280756971, [aliya@who.int](mailto:aliya@who.int)

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