

TERM OF REFERENCE (ToR)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE - COP30

1. INTRODUCTION

Building on the legacy of the Paris Agreement and previous UNFCCC Conferences, COP30 reaffirms its commitment to adaptation and climate justice. Among the key themes are the objectives of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C, commitments to climate financing, and the progress made by countries in terms of adaptation—essential elements for guiding future actions.

The impact of climate change on human health, including through extreme weather events, is gaining prominence as a strategic area. The promotion and protection of health and well-being are fundamental objectives of adaptation, as is climate justice, recognizing that those most exposed are often the very populations that have historically contributed the least to carbon and other pollutant emissions.

Climate change constitutes a significant stressor for the health sector, exacerbating existing challenges and creating new ones. Its effects can be both direct and indirect, including: an increased burden of zoonotic, vector-borne, food- and water-borne diseases; threats to maternal and child health, as well as to sexual and reproductive health and rights; and a heightened risk of diseases or conditions resulting from extreme heat, deteriorating air quality, due to wildfires and sandstorms intensified by droughts and heatwaves. Additionally, there is growing concern over food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms; the decline in quality of life—including mental health—associated with stress and forced displacement caused by climate events, among other consequences.

In this context, Brazil is working to propose a Belém Climate Action Plan for the Health Sector's Adaptation to Climate Change at COP30, aiming to engage UNFCCC Member States in a climate-health commitment, with an emphasis on adaptation to ensure equitable access to health services and promote social participation in governance.

2. COP30 – BRAZILIAN PRESIDENCY

COP30 will be held in the Brazilian Amazon—a territory home to over 300 Indigenous peoples as well as riverside and traditional communities—efforts to integrate the climate and health agendas must promote inclusive solutions, tailored to local realities and adaptable to the diverse contexts of UNFCCC Member States. This represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen climate multilateralism and, above all, to acknowledge that the health sector must occupy a central role in adaptation strategies. Therefore, this Action Plan is not only urgent, but also

indispensable for the resilience of populations and of health systems, services, and programs in the face of an increasingly adverse climate scenario.

The [Belém Action Plan](#) brings together recent efforts to support work at the health–climate change nexus, with the aim of encouraging Parties to implement ambitious commitments in the health sector. As a working instrument, the Plan outlines suggested measures within priority action areas, while taking into account, in a crosscutting manner, equity, climate justice, and governance with social participation. In doing so, it facilitates the flow of human and financial resources toward the implementation of consolidated best practices in climate action for health.

Based on these priority pillars, three action lines have been identified for climate change adaptation and the development of climate-resilient health systems:

- I. Surveillance and monitoring: To strengthen health surveillance and monitoring systems to detect, prevent, and monitor climate-related health threats effectively. This includes developing and implementing early warning systems based on climate data and projections, real-time data collection and analysis from multiple sources, and improving epidemiological tracking to assess, anticipate, and mitigate the health impacts of climate change;
- II. Evidence-based policy strategy and capacity building: To accelerate the implementation of evidence-based solutions and policies by fostering cooperation among governments, academia, civil society, international organizations, and other stakeholders. Encourage multidisciplinary, intersectoral, and participatory approaches to address the climate-health nexus, ensuring the active and informed participation of traditional communities and indigenous peoples in policymaking and decision-making processes;
- III. Innovation and production: To foster research, development, and application of innovative technologies that effectively meet the health needs of populations, taking into account territorial and institutional specificities. It seeks to strengthen resilience and reduce the vulnerability of health systems to the impacts of climate change through the modernization of infrastructure, equipment, supplies (including medicines), and services, as well as the integration of digital solutions and climate-sensitive medical innovations. The strategy also includes enhancing the resilience of the health supply chain complex, promoting its sustainability and responsiveness. Appropriate and continuous financial allocation is essential to enable and consolidate these actions in an integrated and effective manner.

In this sense, the main objective is to identify consolidated policies and good practices to provide countries adhering to the commitment with a guide of options for adapting to the impacts of climate change for improved health outcomes. The expected supporting documents will serve as references to inspire committed

countries to deliver adaptation measures for their healthcare systems, strongly guided by best practices of participatory policies.

Accordingly, the Brazilian presidency of COP30 reaffirms the importance of strengthening the health sector's resilience and adaptation capacities, with a focus on promoting equity to prevent existing inequalities—both between and within countries—from being further exacerbated by the effects of climate change. In this regard, the goal is to achieve an Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Health that can guide policymakers in developing actions to address gaps in public health policies and programs related to climate adaptation and response.

To this end, it is essential to have at hand a set of supporting documents that synthesize the best available scientific evidence and no-regrets actions to support the implementation of the Action Plan. These documents seek to address a series of difficulties some countries face when planning or executing climate action: technical gaps, lack of evidence, financial restrictions, and the need to prioritize other policies. The supporting documents will be directed toward committed countries, providing a menu of policy options that have demonstrated effectiveness, cost-efficiency, adaptability to regional contexts, and the capacity to facilitate participatory processes in their formulation, implementation, and evaluation.

Accordingly, these documents will function as instrumental tools to support the implementation of the Belém Action Plan, serving as reference materials. A concise version of the supporting documents will be presented at the [2025 Global Conference on Climate and Health](#) during its working groups, to be held in Brasília from 29 to 31 July. The event, hosted by the Government of Brazil in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), will provide a platform for countries to discuss the measures proposed in the draft Belém Action Plan in light of their respective experiences, challenges, and opportunities.

3. SCOPE OF REPORT – SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE

Objective: To provide evidence on the adaptation of the health sector to climate change impacts aligned with the Belém Action Plan and the cross cutting priorities of the Brazilian COP 30 presidency: health equity and climate justice, and leadership and governance on climate and health with social participation. Furthermore, the supporting documents shall also reflect at least one of the three technical lines of action proposed by the COP 30 presidency for adaptation action for the health sector: Surveillance and monitoring, evidence-based policy strategy and capacity building, and innovation and production.

Methodology: The deliverables shall comprise a comprehensive literature review and in-depth case study analyses pertaining to adaptation strategies within the health

sector in response to climate change, as well as cross-sectoral adaptation policy measures that generate co-benefits for health outcomes. The analyses shall transcend descriptive narration, adopting a rigorous and structured analytical framework to identify the critical determinants underpinning successful implementation in specific contexts. Particular emphasis shall be placed on assessing the transferability and scalability of these experiences across diverse regional and local settings by discerning the core enablers of success and the conditions under which replication may be feasible. Publications by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) shall constitute primary reference materials, though the incorporation of additional authoritative and peer-reviewed sources is strongly encouraged. The inclusion of empirical evidence and grounded examples from real-world applications is essential to ensure analytical robustness and practical relevance.

Suggested Content:

Proposals may be submitted regarding topics from the [draft Belém Action Plan](#), considering the points below:

1. Review trends of the topic for health concerns in different regions around the world;
2. Investigate the role of science, policy, partnerships, social participation, and governance play in the area;
3. Identify barriers and enablers for the production, use and benefit of its use, paying attention to diversity, inclusion and RoI;
4. Provide recommendations regarding the legal, policy and institutional frameworks that can support the development of climate-informed health surveillance and early warning systems for public health action.

4. TIMELINE

- June 10th 2025: Supporting documents outline (up to 2 pages);
- July 1st 2025: Supporting documents draft (up to 5 pages);
- September 1st 2025: Supporting documents final version (Up to 10 pages, with a 2-page executive summary).

5. REFERENCES

- UNITED NATIONS. Climate Justice Global Alliance <<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/climate-justice-global-alliance>>;
- UNITED NATIONS. Paris Agreement <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf>;
- WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. 2023 WHO review of health in Nationally Determined Contributions and long-term strategies: health at the heart of the Paris Agreement. <<https://climahealth.info/resource->

[library/2023-who-review-of-health-in-nationally-determined-contributions-and-long-term-strategies-health-at-the-heart-of-the-paris-agreement/](#)>;

- WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change: the transformation needed to improve lives and wellbeing sustainably through healthy environments <<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240000377>>.

ATTACHMENT 1 – LINES OF ACTION OF THE DRAFT BELÉM ACTION PLAN

1) Surveillance and monitoring

- 1.1. Improve climate-informed health surveillance and early warning systems;
- 1.2. Identify a priority list of climate-related risks and diseases and develop strategies to address them;
- 1.3. Strengthen preparedness and strategic stockpiles of supplies, vaccines and medicines.

2) Evidence-based policy strategy and capacity building

- 2.1. Climate-health nexus adaptation terminology;
- 2.2. Smart workforce to manage climate change challenges;
- 2.3. Promote community resilience and climate awareness;
- 2.4. Gender-responsive adaptation policies;
- 2.5. Multisectoral strategies for public policy with health co-benefits;
- 2.6. Worker health;
- 2.7. Integrate mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into climate adaptation in the health sector;
- 2.8. Policies for people with disabilities (PWDs).

3) Innovation and production

- 3.1. Resilient infrastructure and services;
- 3.2. Climate-driven health programs;
- 3.3. Evaluation of adaptation and resilience policies and actions in the health sector;
- 3.4. Adaptation for just transitions;
- 3.5. Health supply chain