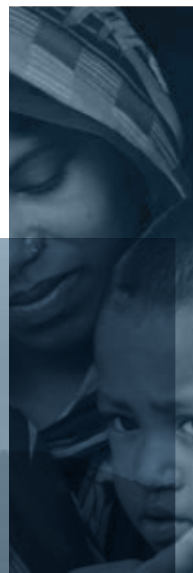


# WHO HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY REPORT

TRACKING GLOBAL PROGRESS



WHO/CED/PHE/EPE/19.11

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Design by Inis Communication

Printed in Switzerland

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# Acknowledgements

**The World Health Organization (WHO) would like to express its gratitude to all national health services that participated in the 2017/2018 WHO Health and Climate Change Survey. Their generous contribution towards collection, compilation and review of data has been essential to tracking global progress on health and climate change and is deeply appreciated.**

Data collection, analysis and report preparation at WHO headquarters was led by Tara Neville. Special thanks are due to Christopher Boyer (consultant), Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, Marina Maiero, Elena Villalobos Prats, Amy Savage (consultant), Nicola Wheeler (consultant) and Arthur Wyns for their expertise and contributions to the analysis, content development and review.

Data collection, validation and reporting would not have been possible without the close collaboration of the WHO regional, subregional and country offices. We especially thank Magaran Monzon Bagayoko (WHO Regional Office for Africa), Hamed Bakir (WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean), Daniel Buss (WHO Regional Office for the Americas/Pan American Health Organization), Sally Edwards (WHO Regional Office for the Americas/Pan American Health Organization), Mohd Nasir Hassan (WHO Division of Pacific Technical Support, Fiji), Vladimir Kendroski (WHO Regional Office for Europe), Rohko Kim (WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific), Saori Kitabatake (WHO Division of Pacific Technical Support, Fiji), Waltaji Kutane (WHO Regional Office for Africa), Lesley Onyon (WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia), Payden (WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia), Oliver Schmoll (WHO Regional Office for Europe) and Elida Vaught (WHO Regional Office for the Americas/Pan American Health Organization).

WHO is grateful for the financial support received from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of these financial donors.

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# Introduction

This report presents global findings from the 2017/2018 WHO Health and Climate Change Survey completed by national health services. Regular updates on key health and climate change indicators empower policy makers to make more informed choices to: assess the implementation of policies and plans, identify gaps in evidence, and better understand the barriers to achieving health adaptation and mitigation priorities. This report provides a vital snapshot of the overall progress that governments have made in the field of health and climate change to date, as well as insight into what work remains in order to protect their populations from the most devastating health impacts of climate change.

The findings presented cover three key areas:



LEADERSHIP AND  
GOVERNANCE



EVIDENCE



INTERNATIONAL  
CLIMATE FINANCE

In 2015, the first WHO Health and Climate Change Survey was conducted with just over 40 country participants<sup>1</sup>. In this second iteration, coverage had more than doubled with 101 country and territory respondents<sup>1</sup>.

In addition to this global report, data from the 2017/2018 WHO Health and Climate Change Survey are used to prepare the WHO United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Health and Climate Change Country Profiles.

The WHO UNFCCC Health and Climate Change Country Profiles, developed in collaboration with national health services, are data-driven snapshots of the climate hazards and expected health impacts of climate change facing countries. They highlight opportunities for health co-benefits from climate mitigation actions and track current policy responses at national level. The aim of the profiles is to raise awareness of health and climate linkages and to promote actions that improve health and strengthen the climate-resilience of health systems while reducing carbon emissions (see Annex 2)(1).

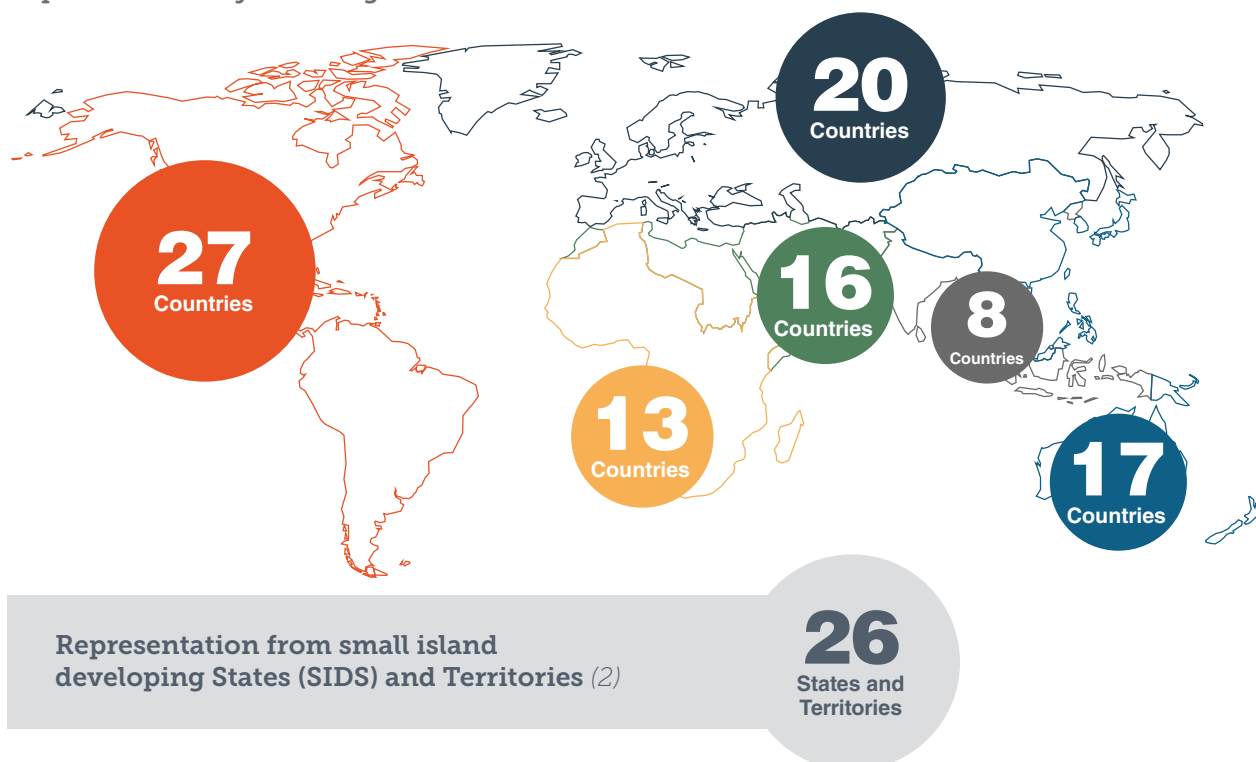
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<sup>1</sup> Country respondents/participants were the national health services of countries.

# 2017/2018 WHO Health and Climate Change Country Survey participation

**101** TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTRY<sup>2</sup> PARTICIPANTS<sup>3</sup>

## Representation by WHO region



- African Region
- South-East Asia Region
- Region of the Americas
- European Region
- Western Pacific Region
- Eastern Mediterranean Region

This map presents WHO regions; the boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

## Representation by income category <sup>(3)</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Although 'country' is used in this report, it should be noted that of the 101 participants three submissions were from territories.

<sup>3</sup> Country respondents/participants were the national health services of countries.

# Main findings

## **1 National Planning on Health and Climate Change is Advancing but there is a Need to Strengthen the Comprehensiveness of Strategies and Plans.**

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About 50% of countries surveyed (51 out of 101) reported having a national health and climate change strategy or plan yet a qualitative analysis of the plans indicated that the content and scope of these strategies and plans varied widely. Most of the plans (25 out of 36) were approved or updated in the past five years indicating a recognition of the urgency to protect population health from climate variability and climate change and the need to build climate-resilient health systems.

## **2 Implementing Action on Key Health and Climate Change Priorities Remains Challenging for Countries.**

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A majority of countries reported only moderate or low levels of implementation of their national health and climate change strategies or plans with financing being cited as the most common barrier to implementation (24 out of 43 respondents).

## **3 Findings from Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments for Health are Influencing Policy Prioritization.**

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Forty-eight countries (48 out of 101) reported having conducted a vulnerability and adaptation assessment for health. Almost two-thirds of these countries indicated that the results of the assessments are being used for national health policy and planning. However, the results are having a more limited impact on financial and human resource allocation.

## **4 Barriers to Accessing International Climate Finance for Health Adaptation and Mitigation Persist.**

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Of the 46 countries that reported on challenges faced in accessing international climate finance for health, the top three challenges were cited as: a lack of information on opportunities, a lack of connection by health actors to climate change processes and a lack of capacity to prepare country proposals.

## **5 Multisectoral Collaboration on Health and Climate Change Policy is Evident yet Progress in this Area Seems Uneven across Sectors.**

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Collaboration on health and climate policy was greatest between the health sector and the water, sanitation and wastewater sector (45 out of 101 respondents), followed by agriculture (31 out of 101 respondents) and social services (26 out of 101 respondents). A quarter or less of countries reported having an agreement in place between the health sector and the transportation, electricity generation or household energy sectors.





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