



EVERY WOMAN
EVERY CHILD

Every Woman Every Child Toolkit COP 21

The United Nations is convening a [conference](#) in Paris in early December to reach a new global climate agreement. While the conference is an important moment in the path to a sustainable future – a world free of poverty, with opportunity for all – it also provides a unique moment to elevate awareness and mobilization surrounding the impact of climate change on health, as well as on actions with positive climate and health effects.

Investing in water and sanitation, better waste management and secure sources of clean fuel not only mitigate the effect of climate change, but also help to reduce vulnerability of women, particularly in urban settings and during disaster and emergency situations.

The price of inaction on climate is high. For example, exposure to air pollution - a major risk factor for non-communicable diseases - accounts for 7 million deaths each year. 4.3 million of these deaths are due to exposure to household air pollution from the use of solid fuels from inefficient cookstoves. According to the WHO, more than 50% of premature deaths among children under 5 are due to pneumonia caused by particulate matter inhaled from household air pollution.

Building on the momentum generated by the launch of the [Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health](#), which presents a roadmap on ending all preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents within a generation, COP 21 not only provides a key moment to highlight the importance of working with health – enhancing sectors for better health outcomes, but also of tapping into and educating a new audience about the work being done under the *Every Woman Every Child* (EWEC) movement.

With climate change already causing tens of thousands of deaths every year whether it is from shifting patterns of disease (extreme weather events, such as heat-waves and floods) or from the degradation of air quality, food and water supplies, and sanitation, the health community needs to lend its voice to the international climate discussion and ask countries to come together and make bold commitments to protect our planet and the health of current and future generations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Key Messages
2. Resources
3. Suggested Social Media Messages
4. Things YOU can do
5. Calendar of Health Related Events at COP



KEY MESSAGES

- ◆ Climate change is the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century.
 - ▷ Climate change is already causing tens of thousands of deaths every year—from shifting patterns of disease, from extreme weather events, such as heat-waves and floods, and from degradation of air quality, food and water supplies and sanitation.
 - ▷ WHO estimates that almost 90% of the burden of disease from climate change falls on children in developing countries
- ◆ There is strong evidence that climate and human health are tightly connected, with a negative impact for most populations and particularly for the most vulnerable groups, including women, children and adolescents, causing tens of thousands of deaths every year.
 - ▷ Climate change impacts are expected to exacerbate existing threats and undermine development progress, straining health systems and increasing social inequities.
 - ▷ Climate change contributes to increased likelihood of under nutrition resulting from diminished food production in poor regions; and lost work capacity and reduced labor productivity in vulnerable populations.
 - ▷ Those who are most at risk include marginalized populations due to geography, age, gender, ethnicity, displacement, disability and socioeconomic status. Among these groups, pregnant and lactating women and children will be particularly vulnerable.
 - ▷ Mitigating climate change can bring large and immediate benefits for health. The most obvious gains are from reducing the annual mortality attributable to ambient and household air pollution (about 4.3 million and 3.7 million, respectively), which is among the largest causes of mortality globally, particularly in low and middle-income countries.
 - ▷ Failure to mitigate and adapt to climate change will present unacceptable risks to health, including breakdown in food systems, exacerbation of poverty, and negative implications for achieving many of the newly agreed Sustainable Development Goals, including the health goal.
- ◆ The health community has a unique contribution to make in supporting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and in implementing preventive public health measures that will protect populations from the worst consequences of climate change.
 - ▷ Recommendations in the [*Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health*](#) will foster more resilient systems, as well as quality and equity in health services.
 - ▷ The [*Global Strategy*](#) stresses the importance of multi-sectoral action to promote well-being and improving life prospects, which can help mitigate the effects of climate change, increase resilience and adaptation.
 - ▷ Providing energy access, including renewable energy, to health clinics in poor countries, is essential for ensuring safe births and reducing maternal mortality.

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- ▷ The health sector can also improve its own practices to minimize its carbon emissions. Health services in developed countries are major consumers of energy and significant emitters of greenhouse gases. Energy efficiency, shifting to renewables, and greener procurement and delivery chains can both improve services and cut carbon emissions.
 - ▷ In contrast, many health facilities in the poorest countries lack any electricity supply; for resource-constrained settings and off-grid hospitals and clinics, low-carbon energy solutions can form an important component of an overall energy supply strategy.

- ◆ Climate change threatens to widen health inequalities and have a disproportionate impact on women, children and young people.

- ▷ Globally, 99% of deaths related to climate change occur in low- and middle-income countries.
- ▷ Overall, the impact of climate change is likely to widen existing health inequalities, both between and within populations. While climate change threatens everyone, it has become increasingly evident that it brings differential impacts on the women and girls, children and young people.
- ▷ Many of the health risks that are likely to be affected by ongoing climate change show gender differentials.
- ▷ Globally, natural disasters such as droughts, floods and storms kill more women than men, and tend to kill women at a younger age. The gender-gap effects on life expectancy tend to be greater in more severe disasters, and in places where the socioeconomic status of women is particularly low. Other climate-sensitive health impacts, such as under-nutrition and malaria, also show important gender differences.
- ▷ There are also differences in vulnerability to the indirect and longer-term effects of climate change. Droughts in developing countries bring health hazards through reduced availability of water for drinking, cooking and hygiene, and through food insecurity. Women and girls (and their offspring) disproportionately suffer health consequences of nutritional deficiencies and the burdens associated with travelling further to collect water.
- ▷ Evidence clearly shows that countries with poor reproductive, maternal, new-born, children and adolescent's health (RMNCAH) outcomes rank high among those most directly impacted by climate change. And climate change itself is further driving negative impacts on health.
 - Environmental factors contribute to one-quarter of the burden of disease globally.
 - An estimated 11 million children are at risk from hunger, disease and lack of water in eastern and southern Africa as a result of a strengthening El Niño, which is also causing droughts and floods in parts of Asia, the Pacific and Latin America.
 - About 4% of disaster affected populations are pregnant women, about 15% of whom will experience an obstetric complication. Their babies are at increased risk: 53% of preventable under-5 deaths take place in humanitarian settings.
 - Urban air pollution is already one of the main risk factors for respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. More than 50% of premature deaths among children under 5 are due to pneumonia caused by particulate matter inhaled from air pollution.
 - ◇ The burden of indoor air pollution falls disproportionately on women and children in the poorest communities.

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- There is also increasing evidence that environmental degradation, such as deforestation, triggers disease outbreaks: scientists believe that as wildlife is forced out of its natural habitats, the likelihood of human contact with disease vectors increases.
 - ▷ Strong RMNCAH is vital in making a dent in this vicious circle, strengthening the resilience of affected populations.
 - ▷ When reproductive, maternal, new-born, children and adolescents' health is upheld, everyone benefits: individuals, families and communities become more resilient. This is vital particularly for the resilience of populations facing climate change impacts including slow or rapid onset disasters.
 - ◆ Women, in particular, have a crucial role to play as front-line responders and are key for the survival and well-being of their children, families and communities.
 - ▷ Existing inequalities, manifested for example in women's limited access to financial resources, education, health care and other rights, prevent them from coping and adapting.
 - ▷ Gender equality and women's empowerment should be included as a priority in national health plans and programmes in the context of climate change, based on robust gender analysis, concrete steps for gender mainstreaming and evidence based monitoring of RMNCAH.
 - ▷ We must strengthen the participation of women, children and adolescents in the formulation and implementation of the RMNCAH components of national and regional adaptation plans.
 - ▷ We must also strengthen strategic focus on RMNCAH as an instrument for enhancing the contribution of women, children and adolescents to effective sustainable climate adaptation.
 - ◆ A strong climate agreement is a strong health agreement.
 - ▷ An effective climate agreement is essential to safeguard public health and well-being.
 - ▷ A strong climate agreement should reflect health and resilience as primary motivations for action, health and well-being as adaptation priorities, and promote climate change mitigation policies that also bring health benefits and positive life prospects.
 - ▷ A strong climate agreement would help bring about a planet that is not only more environmentally intact, but also has cleaner air, more abundant and safer freshwater and food, more effective and fairer health and social protection systems.



RESOURCES

- ▶ [Official Website of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change](#)
- ▶ [#Earth to Paris](#) website
- ▶ [WHO Climate Change & Human Health resource page](#)
- ▶ [PMNCH knowledge summary: Protecting women's & children's health from a changing climate](#)
- ▶ [WHO Climate and Health Country Profiles](#)
- ▶ [WHO brief on Gender, Climate Change and Health](#)
- ▶ [Health Events in the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference of Parties \(COP21\)](#)
- ▶ [Kaila — Pacific Voice For Action on Climate Change](#)
- ▶ [Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves](#)
- ▶ [Every Woman Every Child Resource Hub](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Join the [#EarthToParis](#) Twitter Chat on December 3rd, 2 -3 p.m. EST:
"A Climate for Change" – Climate change and the global goals

Tweets:

Current & future impact of climate change on human health evident in latest WHO country profiles
<http://bit.ly/218PhTu> [#COP21](#) [#EWECisME](#)

7 million people die each year on indoor & outdoor pollution = 1 in 8 global deaths [#COP21](#) [#EWECisME](#)

Did you know that climate change is the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century? [#COP21](#)
[#EWECisME](#)

Realizing health & wellbeing of adolescents starts w/ creating a healthy environment. Fight
[#climatechange](#) TODAY [#COP21](#) [#EWECisME](#) (use this url to download image: <http://bit.ly/1kTHNDI>)

Estimates show that 90% of burden of disease from [#climatechange](#) falls on children in poor countries
[#EWECisME](#) [#COP21](#)

Globally 99% of deaths related to [#climatechange](#) occur in low & middle income countries [#EWECisME](#)
[#COP21](#)

[#climatechange](#) is likely to widen health inequities within & between countries [#EWECisME](#) [#COP21](#)

Indoor [#airpollution](#) disproportionately impacts women & children in poorest countries [#EWECisME](#)
[#COP21](#)



Drought: women & girls suffer disproportionately from traveling further to collect water
#EWECisME #COP21

#climatechange makes access to resources unpredictable = impacting income, healthcare & more, for women & girls. #COP21 #EWECisME

Women make up majority of world's most vulnerable = more dependent on natural resources affected by #climatechange #EWECisME #COP21

@UnfEWEC & Global Strategy highlights importance of working with health—enhancing sectors for better health outcomes #COP21 #EWECisME

There's great research on connections w health & #climate. @WHO called for urgent action:
#EarthToParis <http://bit.ly/1PZ4zol> #EWECisME

There's no 1 solution for tackling #climatechange—#youth voices are key to innovative ideas & changing the game #EWECisME

#youth in fragile settings = impacted more x #climatechange than others b/c lack of access to health services #COP21 #EWECisME

Pregnant women, newborns & young children esp vulnerable to effects of #climatechange. Together we can change that #COP21 #EWECisME

Access 2 energy to health clinics in poor countries is essential 2 reduce #maternaldeaths & ensure safe births #EWECisME #COP21

Health sector must also look 4 ways to minimize carbon emissions thru energy efficiency & shifting to renewables #EWECisME

Low-carbon solutions important 4 supplying energy 2 healthy facilities in poor countries & for off-grid clinics #EWECisME

Increased natural disasters = dire effects on health of vulnerable populations w/o access to necessary resources #EarthToParis #EWECisME

Strengthening reproductive, maternal, newborn, child & adolescent health will increase climate change resilience #COP21 #EWECisME

Strengthening #resilience of health systems saves lives now & protects pop.'s from potential impacts of #climatechange @WHO #COP21 #EWECisME

Countries must implement activities to increase climate #resilience into the core of health system infrastructures @WHO #COP21 #EWECisME

This is about us, all we know, every1 we love & our survival—Speak up to fight #climatechange #EarthToParis <http://bit.ly/1LNL0gl> #EWECisME

#EarthToParis: This is NOT about Jack Black or Lil Bub. It's about us taking ACTION against #climatechange <http://bit.ly/1LNL0gl> #EWECisME

Strong evidence #climatechange & health connected = more CC means even worse global health #EarthToParis #EWECisME <http://bit.ly/1MxT19v>



Health community has important role to play in reducing emissions & protection populations from [#climatechange](#) [#EWECisME](#)

A strong climate agreement is a strong health agreement [#EWECisME](#) [#EarthToParis](#) [#COP21](#)

Facebook:

- ◆ Climate change is the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century. The upcoming United Nations Conference on Climate Change provides a unique moment to elevate awareness and mobilization surrounding the impact of climate change on health, as well as on actions with positive climate and health effects. With 7 million people dying each year due to indoor & outdoor pollution, representing 1 in 8 global deaths urgent action is critical. [#EWECisME](#) [#COP21](#)
- ◆ Latest WHO country specific data on the current and future impacts of climate change on human health highlights the devastating impact of inaction especially among the most vulnerable, especially women, children and adolescents. [#EWECisME](#) [#COP21](#) (insert url: <http://www.who.int/globalchange/resources/countries/en/>)
- ◆ [#EarthToParis](#): This is NOT about Jack Black or Lil Bub. This is about us, everything we know, everyone we love & our survival. We must speak up and take action to fight [#climatechange](#) [#EWECisME](#) [#COP21](#) (insert url: <https://youtu.be/WT8WLUpxumU>)
- ◆ Strengthening the resilience of health systems would both save lives now, and protect populations from most of the potential health impacts of [#climatechange](#). Countries must implement activities to increase climate resilience of health infrastructure systems. [#EWECisME](#) [#COP21](#)

THINGS YOU CAN DO

1. Show your support on Twitter and Facebook by sharing the suggested messages or creating your own using [#EWECisME](#) & [#COP21](#).
2. Participate in the [#EarthToParis](#) Twitter Chat on **December 3rd, 2-3pm EST**:
"A Climate for Change" – Climate change and the global goals
3. Write a blog piece or op-ed to share with your followers and incorporate the key messages from the toolkit.
4. [Sign](#) the WHO Call to Action.
5. Visit the *Every Woman Every Child* [Resource Hub](#) for additional resource materials.

HIGHLIGHT OF HEALTH RELATED EVENTS

| DATE | EVENT | THEME | Audience | Location |
|-----------|---|--|---|---|
| Dec. 3 | CCAC city briefing on SLCP health impacts | One hour city briefing on SLCP health impacts. | General Public/ Global | ICLEI TAP pavilion |
| Dec. 3 | A Climate for Change | Climate change and the global goals | General Public / Global | Paris (CICERO Pavilion) |
| Dec. 4 | Climate and Health Event | Paris Conference on Climate Change and Health Care | Representatives from hospitals & health systems | Paris (Hopital Europeen Geroges – Pompidou) |
| Dec. 4 | Reduce air pollution to save lives and combat climate change | As a number of sources of air pollutants and greenhouse gases are the same, reducing air pollution can have significant co-benefits for our health and climate. | | EU Pavilion |
| Dec. 5 | Climate Health Summit | Hosted by WHO & Global Climate and Health Alliance | | Paris |
| Dec. 7 | Earth To Paris – Le Hub | #EarthToParis will bring together experts, advocates, and CEOs to discuss creative and impactful climate solutions to inspire bold, meaningful action for people and the planet. | General Public/ Global | Join the conversation using #EarthToParis & via Livestream: http://www.earthtoparis.org/event |
| Dec. 8 | Health event on air pollution | Why the climate change agreement is critical to Public Health | Ministers / Policy Makers | Paris |
| Dec. 8 | Evaluating the Health & Climate Benefits of Clean Cooking Solutions | | Researchers, practitioners and investors | Bâtiment le France 190 avenue de France 75013 Paris Conference room 640 |
| Dec. 8 | Why the Climate Agreement is Critical to Public Health | CC poses serious health risks, mostly for the poorest populations, but can also stimulate stronger health systems and health gains from the transition to a low-carbon economy. | | OR2 |
| Dec. 7 -8 | Le Hub Social Good Summit | Discuss creative & impactful climate solutions to inspire action | General Public / Global/ UN / Policy Makers | Paris |