



Climate and Health Financing Needs

A qualitative assessment of country-determined needs and opportunities around mobilizing financing for climate and health solutions deployment

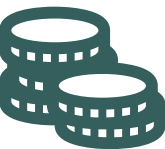
Mar 2024

Process

- The WHO and RF conducted qualitative interviews with 8 countries
- The purpose was to better understand climate and health priorities, experiences with accessing local and international finance, as well as needs when it comes to accessing additional financing
- Countries interviewed were from all six of WHO's regions
- Interviews were conducted in late February 2024

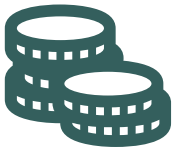
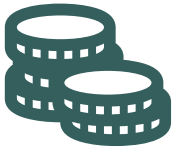
Questions asked to countries | Part 1

1. Can you briefly describe the climate and health interventions that the government has prioritized in the past few years? Please focus on priorities for which the government has tried to mobilize financing.
2. What are the greatest challenges the health sector has faced when attempting to access both national and international funds for climate and health work? What attempts to address these challenges have been successful, which have been less successful?
3. Is the Ministry of Health currently receiving domestic or international funds to support climate change and health work? Please also expand on further financing on climate and health deriving from other sectors (e.g. MoFin) at a national level.



Questions asked to countries | Part 2

4. Please indicate the sources of international funding/financing the Ministry of Health currently receives that supports climate and health interventions.
5. Thinking towards the future, which institutions do you consider as the most probable source of accessing climate and health financing? Do they differ from the institutions that were mentioned previously? This would include both concessional financing as well as grants.
6. Are there types of work that you would like to receive funding for, but you have found difficult to find funders?
7. What type of data/evidence would support your country to access climate change and health financing (both domestic and international)?



Country-identified climate and health priorities

Programmatic



- Combat climate-aggravated infectious disease with improved surveillance and early warnings systems (62%)
- Build capacity of the health management and service delivery workforce to understand and prioritize the climate and health relationship (50%)
- Mobilize behavior change and awareness campaigns to clarify the climate change and health connection (37%)
- Safeguard environmental health (25%)
- Expand the evidence base on linkage between climate and health (12%)
- Integrate climate change considerations in health service delivery (12%)
- Reduce food insecurity (12%)



Country-identified climate and health priorities

Operational

- Channel additional funding towards climate and health priorities through improved costing and return on investment analyses (25%)
- Improve cross-Ministerial and cross-sector coordination through the curation of platforms and mechanisms to bring climate and health actors together (25%)
- Enhance governance mechanism and leadership capabilities that enable joint priority setting and decision making (25%)
- Integrate more digital-forward, carbon-friendly technologies within the health system (25%)
- Explore opportunities to include climate and health priorities in other established budget lines, like disaster risk management and response (12%)



Country-identified climate and health priorities

Infrastructure

- Improve health infrastructure to be resilient against both climate shocks and routine stressors (50%)
- Reduce health system carbon emissions through enhanced decarbonization and greening efforts (50%)
- Support sustainable and resilient WASH-related infrastructure for the health system and vulnerable communities (37%)

Challenges that inhibit access to climate and health financing

Operational



- Difficulty coordinating a multi-sector issue across different government bodies, especially Ministry of Environment and ownership of “climate” issues (75%)
- Lack of budgeting and planning functions that are responsive to climate and health needs and cross-ministerial efforts (62%)
- Push to leverage *existing* funds as opposed to mobilizing new funding, discourages conversations for access additional/international funding (37%)
- Limited and contracting fiscal space prevents novel considerations (37%)
- Funding still tends to be province-by-province instead of national (12%)
- Initiatives in highest-risk, most vulnerable areas can be costly (12%)

Challenges that inhibit access to climate and health financing

Politics, Policy, and Capacity



- Lack of awareness when it comes to climate change and health urgency with senior political actors (62%)
- Omission of health considerations in national climate change policy and/or lack of alignment with national climate change policy (62%)
- Incomplete understanding of disease burden and associated climate change dynamics complicates efforts to access financing (37%)
- Limited capacity/awareness at sub-national and local levels of the government and health systems prevents demand from surfacing at national level (25%)
- Policy initiatives and budget realities are often unaligned (12%)
- Political transitions make continuity challenging (12%)

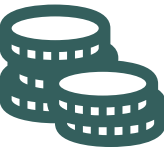
Challenges that inhibit access to climate and health financing

Global Engagement



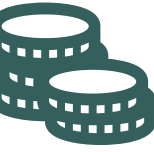
- Health systems adaptation efforts are considered “soft” interventions with limited bankability and justification on economic return (87%)
- Limited understanding of what financing is available in the international sphere and/or how to access that financing (50%)
- Preference from international financing organizations for “regional” projects introduces complications for accessing international funds (25%)
- Limited and/or delayed responses from financing organizations (12%)
- Continued prioritization of mitigation efforts over adaptation, especially considering that those looking for adaptation financing are often not big emitters (12%)
- Inability to finance governments directly, need for additional partners (12%)

Does the Ministry of Health currently receive funding (both domestic and international) for climate and health priorities?



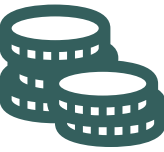
- 75% of countries indicated that they have looked to “green” existing budget lines as a way to secure financing for climate and health interventions
- Ministries note that they were currently receiving funding for topics like WASH (25%) and solarization (25%)
- Generally, all respondents indicated that there was “limited” or “insufficient” financing to meet the need

Where does existing funding come from?



- WHO (50%)
- Green Climate Fund, Readiness Funding (37%)
- Global Environmental Facility (37%)
- UNICEF (25%)
- UNDP (25%)
- UNEP (12%)
- Green Climate Fund, Project Funding (12%)
- GiZ (12%)
- World Bank (12%)

What are the most probable sources of funding moving forward?



- 50% of countries indicated that there was a lack of clarity on where and how to access funding at the climate and health nexus
- Domestically, multiple countries pointed to a need for better coordination with the Ministry of Environment to mobilize financing
- Countries indicated that GCF (25%), WB (25%), WHO (12%), UNEP (12%), IADB (12%), and UNDRR (12%) were all the most likely sources of climate and health financing
- Multiple countries referenced the need for more diversified funding sources and financing backed by a single/unified plan

What aspects of climate and health work are underfunded?



- Surveillance for climate-aggravated disease beyond malaria (37%)
- Adaptation and “softer” investments are underfunded (25%)
- Capacity building (25%)
- Foundational work like evidence generation and awareness building (25%)
- Governance and coordination mechanism (12%)
- Decentralization and deployment from national to sub-national (12%)

What type of investments would help increase access to CxH financing?

Data & Evidence



- Models that clarify the pathways to access financing for governmental and non-governmental actors (37%)
- Quantifying the cost of inaction and the return on investment for climate and health investments (37%)
- Evidence that demonstrates the linkage between climate change and pressing public health issues (25%)
- Less burdensome approaches that use existing, high-quality data to understand vulnerability and formulate responses (25%)

What type of investments would help increase access to CxH financing?

Localized Engagement



- Build capacity of government and local partners to develop proposals and investment cases for climate and health (62%)
- Approaches to translate climate and health solutions into budget needs/estimates to facilitate financing requests (25%)
- Identification of proven health systems adaptation solutions that can be modeled and replicated elsewhere (12%)

What type of investments would help increase access to CxH financing?

Advocacy & Policy



- Advocacy to help build awareness and buy-in within senior members of Ministries of Health, Environment, and Finance (50%)
- Globally and locally relevant mechanisms that bring disparate actors together for joint-action and decision-making to reduce coordination pain points (50%)
- Development and validation of *cross-cutting* policies that recognize the interconnectedness of climate and health, including mainstreaming of both climate and health (25%)
- Increased recognition within the climate community that health should be and is a priority (12%)

For any questions, please reach out to:

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