

April 2025

# WMO-WHO CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, AND HEALTH JOINT PROGRAMME OF WORK / BUILDING ON 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

The WMO Congress endorsed a new 10 year Implementation Plan on Integrated Health, Environment, and Climate Science and Services in 2023, laying the groundwork for a re-envisioned strategy. This reaffirmed the critical socio-economic importance of WMO cooperation with the health sector and established a vision and plan of work to assist Members better address climate, weather, and environmental health risks.

This was reinforced by the WMO State of Climate Services 2023 on Health report which showed overwhelming growth in sectoral demand for climate services as well as untapped potential to leverage the joint intelligence of the health and climate sectors to enhance resilience to intensifying risks to communities worldwide.

This foundational vision to make transformational strides in the field, led to strategic steps in 2024 by the World Health Organization (WHO)-World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Joint Programme for Climate and Health to expand partnerships that will lay the groundwork for sustained, cross-sectoral action on climate and health and building systems that connect science, policy, and practice to protect health and save lives.

**Our Vision:** Better health and wellbeing for all— especially those facing extreme weather, climate change, and environmental threats—through the integration of climate, environment, and health science and services.

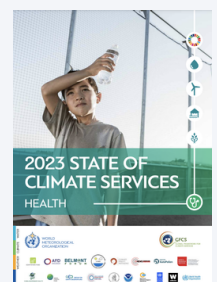
## Championing climate services for health

WMO's annual State of Climate Services report focused on health in 2023, highlighting the need for tailored climate information and services to support the health sector in the face of more extreme weather and poor air quality, shifting infectious disease patterns and food and water insecurity. Developed in coordination with the Joint Programme, the report features multi-media videos and case studies from around the world and showcases how integrated climate and health action makes a very real difference in people's daily lives.

The accompanying Summary for Decision-makers was presented by a panel of experts at COP29 in Dubai, UAE (December 2023) to outline critical investment areas to address current gaps in climate science and services for health.

### Key results:

- The WMO State of Climate Services: Health report sets a baseline and outlines opportunities and needs in the field of climate services
- Summary for decision-makers to address gaps in climate science and services for health points to 10 key investment opportunities
- Multi-media series highlighted case studies and health and NMHS cooperation on climate services in Argentina and Greece.



## Showcasing climate and health science and action

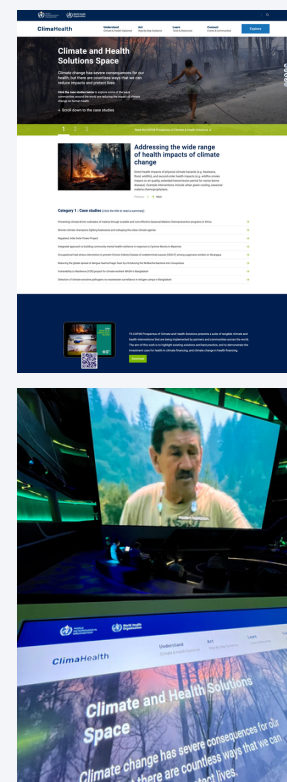
At both COP28 and COP29, [ClimaHealth.info](https://climahealth.info) served as a central hub for the global health community, compiling health-relevant side events, news, and resources to support engagement and collaboration across sectors. Through this work, the Joint Programme has positioned itself as a key knowledge broker, connecting practitioners, policymakers, and researchers and helping ensure that health remains at the center of climate discussions.

In cooperation with the COP28 Presidency, the Joint Programme played a leading role in developing the [Climate and Health Solutions Space](https://climahealth.info/solutions-space) on [ClimaHealth.info](https://climahealth.info). This platform showcases 24 real-world case studies of climate and health interventions being implemented around the world, from early warning systems and heat action plans to climate-resilient health infrastructure and disease surveillance.

The Solutions Space and accompanying COP28 Prospectus of Climate and Health Solutions were presented during a high-profile multi-media showcase event at COP28 attended by hundreds of participants, elevating visibility and momentum for integrated climate and health action.

### Key Results:

- [ClimaHealth.info](https://climahealth.info) leveraged as the health sector's go-to hub for COP28 and COP29, curating key events and resources, and facilitating health community engagement with UNFCCC COP28 and COP29
- Online and live exhibit [Climate and Health Solutions Space](https://climahealth.info/solutions-space) featured 24 global case studies and the art of the possible.
- Cross-sectoral visibility and momentum for climate-informed health action on the global stage through events hosted in pavilions of the European Commission, WMO, WHO, and Government of Singapore.



## WMO reaffirms health sector collaboration at the 77th World Health Assembly

On 1 June 2024, WMO Secretary-General Prof. Celeste Saulo met with WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and addressed the [World Health Assembly](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/celeste-saulo-addresses-the-77th-world-health-assembly) to acknowledge the growing importance of climate and health collaboration. In her remarks, she reaffirmed the shared commitment of the two organizations to deliver on their [10-year Joint Implementation Plan for Climate and Health](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/celeste-saulo-addresses-the-77th-world-health-assembly). Prof. Saulo emphasized that “there can be no Health for All, there can be no Early Warnings for All, unless we are working together.”

Her message raised the political profile of the WMO-WHO Joint Programme, reinforced the urgency of aligning meteorological expertise with health system priorities, and underscored the need for sustained institutional cooperation to meet the increasing health risks linked to a changing climate. The high-level engagement helped anchor climate and health in conversations among ministers of health, development partners, and donors. It also marked a milestone in shaping the next decade of joint work, particularly around operationalizing climate-informed early warning systems and integrating climate data into health planning.

### Key Results:

- WMO cooperation and WHO-WMO Joint Implementation Plan brought to the attention of the World Health Assembly, by the incoming Secretary General
- Visibility of the climate and health agenda within the global health community strengthened.
- Alignment of WHO and WMO policies on climate and health, with climate science and services reiterated.
- Joint commitment to deliver Early Warnings for All, for protection of health and wellbeing.



# New implementing mechanisms for health endorsed by WMO Services Commission

At the WMO Services Commission (SERCOM-3) held in Bali, members congratulated the work of the Health Study Group (2020-2024) and endorsed the creation of new mechanisms aimed at improving how climate services support the health sector.

These decisions reflect growing global recognition of the need for more structured, sustained collaboration between climate and health communities.

**Key Results:** Affirmation of existing mechanisms, and the endorsement of new implementing mechanisms to help build technical capacity, accelerate implementation of heat services, and foster stronger institutional links at the country level:

New mechanisms:

- Centres of Excellence for Climate and Health
- Climate and Health Fellowship Programme
- Extreme Heat Services Roadmap and Implementation Plan
- Expert Team on Integrated Health Services, to be formed under the Standing Committee on Climate Services

Existing mechanisms:

- WHO-WMO Joint Office for Climate and Health
- Global Heat Health Information Network
- ClimaHealth.info

## Institutionalizing climate services in health systems

In April 2024, the Rockefeller Foundation hosted a strategic workshop in Bellagio, Italy, that brought together experts in climate services, health observatories, and urban resilience to explore how climate information can better support health decision-making at the local level. The meeting built on priorities and gaps from the 2023 WMO State of Climate Services for Health report and recent work of the SERCOM Health Study Group.

The goal was to bridge efforts across these communities, identify common challenges, and begin aligning around a shared strategy for embedding climate services into health systems. Participants informed a roadmap that would not only generate momentum, but also support a broader call to action—grounded in practical steps to make local health systems more responsive to climate risks.

**Key Results:**

- Partnership groundwork strengthened between the Rockefeller Foundation, Wellcome, and WMO around climate services for health.
- Key actors aligned on strategies to meet growing demand for climate services in the health sector.
- Practical steps identified to bring climate information closer to frontline health decision-making.





## Appeal for climate-informed health actions

During New York Climate Action Week in September 2024, WMO Secretary-General Prof. Celeste Saulo helped launch the Rockefeller Foundation's [Call for Climate-Informed Health Actions](#), to strengthen how cities prepare for and respond to climate-driven health risks.

The [new report](#) released at the event identified major gaps in city-level climate and health responses and offered clear recommendations for action, including strengthening collaboration between health and meteorological agencies, local coordination for early action, and effective communication initiatives.

To help move the agenda forward, the Rockefeller Foundation committed over \$1 million in grant funding to partners to support implementation.

### Key Results:

- Launch of Global call for Climate-Informed Health Actions, with focus on urban resilience.
- New report highlights priority gaps and recommendations for improving city-level responses to climate-health threats.
- Value of climate services, and the need for closer coordination between health and meteorological institutions highlighted by new philanthropic and implementing partners.



## Advancing integrated climate and health information systems

In September 2024, WHO, WMO, the Wellcome Trust, and the Rockefeller Foundation convened a [Technical Consultation on Integrated Data and Health Information Systems](#) in Geneva focused on strengthening data systems that link climate and health. The meeting brought together 75 experts from both agencies and around the world to inform a three-year action plan for building more integrated and effective climate services for the health sector.

The consultation focused on addressing operational priorities outlined in the [Joint Programme's Implementation Plan](#), laying the foundation for more connected data systems that can help health authorities better anticipate and respond to climate-related risks.

### Key Results:

- 75 global experts informed structure and priorities for a three-year action plan for climate-informed health data systems, which will help "Operationalize Climate Service" priorities the WHO-WMO Implementation Plan.
- New key actors and partners working in climate data and infrastructure, digital health, and health information systems engaged and familiarized with WMO and NMHS
- Stage set for more connected, efficient, and responsive health information systems in the face of climate change.
- Consultant contracted to support coordination between new partners and workplan development.

## Wellcome announces US\$6.3 million investment in WMO-WHO Joint Programme

At the World Health Summit in Berlin, Wellcome announced a US\$25 million investment in climate and health as part of \$50M commitment to WHO and recognized WMO as a critical partner on climate and health services. In addition to this investment, a separate four-year grant of US\$6.3 million was awarded to strengthen the WMO-WHO Climate and Health Joint Programme, making a major contribution to the Implementation Plan for Integrated Climate, Environment, and Health Science and Services.

This partnership will critically help establish sustainable mechanisms and partnerships that will support health researchers and decision-makers access reliable climate and weather data, equipping them to better anticipate, understand, and respond to growing climate-related health threats.

### Key Results:

- Wellcome-WMO partnership to strengthen the WMO-WHO Joint Programme in 2025-2029



## Leveraging Digital Public Infrastructure to unlock the potential of climate services for health

Interoperable and quality information systems lie at the heart of climate and health. A new partnership between WHO, WMO, the Wellcome Trust, the Rockefeller Foundation, and Digital Square at PATH was launched to drive global efforts to build stronger digital foundations for climate and health. Together, the partners are working to develop Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and advance Digital Public Goods (DPGs) that can support more equitable, climate-informed health systems.

To better scale equitable access to trusted data and services, the initiative aims to define and set standards for digital public infrastructure. Efforts will foster more resilient digital ecosystems that can accelerate tailored climate services, and support early warning systems, health surveillance, and climate-informed decision-making.

In December 2024, at the Global Digital Health Forum in Nairobi Kenya, a dedicated track explored the market and opportunities for climate and health digital goods, and the partnership launched a Call for Climate and Health Global Digital Goods—an open invitation for innovators and institutions to collaborate and share their work in this growing field.

### Key Results:

- Multi-partner initiative activated to strengthen digital infrastructure for climate and health, raising awareness of WMO and climate services in the digital health and data community.
- Global Call for Digital Goods will help identify and drive innovation and collaboration, leading to identification and promotion of high quality open-source, interoperable tools to support early warnings and surveillance.



## Supporting the UN Secretary General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat

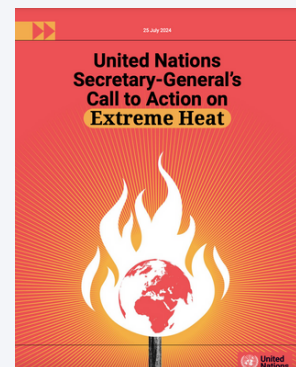
In July 2024, the United Nations Secretary-General recognized the expertise of WMO and the Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN), inviting them to help shape and deliver the [UN Secretary General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat](#).

As part of this effort, WMO, UNDRR, and GHHIN co-hosted the [first global technical consultation on extreme heat governance](#) in Geneva in December 2024. The meeting gathered 60 experts from 12 governments, 15 international agencies, leading academic institutions, and civil society to explore how governance systems can better manage rising heat risks and to develop the basis of a common heat risk governance framework.

This consultation was part of a [broader initiative](#) led by WMO, UNDRR, GHHIN, and Duke University's Heat Policy Innovation Hub to develop an Extreme Heat Decision-Support Package that will help policymakers develop more coordinated, cross-sectoral solutions to protect populations from heat.

### Key Results:

- Contributed to shaping a global Call to Action on Extreme Heat.
- Hosted the first global consultation on extreme heat governance.
- Developed a [Heat governance decision-support package](#), including country case studies, international organization heat action profiles, a stocktake report of international actors, an evaluation of heat action plans, and a maturity assessment tool and criteria.



## Strengthening the Global Heat Health Information Network

The Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) made significant strides in 2024, expanding its regional presence and strengthen global collaboration on heat resilience. A [dedicated coordinator](#) joined the Technical Support Unit at WMO early in the year, and a new [Southeast Asia Heat Health Hub](#) was launched at the National University of Singapore to strengthen partnerships, drive applied research, and facilitate knowledge exchange to protect communities from extreme heat.

In August, GHHIN's Global Management Committee and the new Southeast Asia Steering Committee [convened in Singapore](#) to shape a refreshed strategic plan, setting the direction for the Network's continued growth. That momentum continued into 2025, with over 250 experts gathering at the first [Southeast Asia Heat Health Forum](#) in January to officially launch the hub and chart a shared path forward.

Additional regional hubs in South Asia and Latin America will be launched in 2025, furthering the global engagement of GHHIN and supporting context-specific action on heat resilience.

### Key Results:

- New Southeast Asia Heat Health Hub launched with new partnership with Govt of Singapore and National University of Singapore.
- Updated Network Strategic Plans reflect growing demand and partnerships
- Dedicated coordinator appointed to lead GHHIN's Technical Support Unit.
- First Southeast Asia Heat Health Forum convened 250+ regional experts to define regional priorities.
- Expansion plans underway for regional hubs in South Asia and Latin America, technical reports, and activities.





# Supporting Early Warnings For All

To enhance WMO efforts to support robust and decision-tailored heat services and warning systems, a series of technical assessments, consultations, and guidance on extreme heat were developed in 2023-2024, as part of defining WMOs activities of Extreme Heat and Health.

Two technical working groups completed final drafts of updated Guidance on Heat Warning Systems, and a Handbook on Heat Indicators and Indices. Reflecting the new guidance training materials were tested in multiple WMO regions. Next steps in technical assistance and coordination for heat warning systems is planned to begin in 2025, including a Task Team to guide the Implementation Plan for Extreme Heat Services .

## Key Results:

- Updated Guidance on Heat Warning Systems and Handbook on Heat Indicators and Indices (Pending publication)
- State of Extreme Heat Services Assessment
- Secretariat working group drafted Extreme Heat Services Roadmap, and endorsed at SERCOM-3
- Pilot locations identified and projects developed with partners



# Increasing access to information and resources

In 2024, the WMO-WHO Joint Programme continued to expand its communications reach and impact.

The programme enhanced its two flagship online platforms —ghhin.org and ClimaHealth.info, improving usability and broadening their global audiences through regular content updates, promotion of research and partner activities, and strategic SEO.

Social media engagement grew steadily and was complemented by the launch of a LinkedIn discussion group for heat and health.

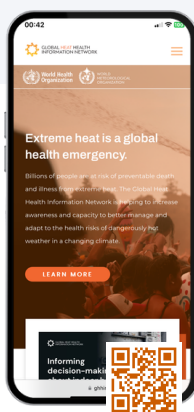
Publication and event support helped shape Joint Office messaging and ensure it reached the right audiences, while the Global Heat Health Information Network's monthly digest was revamped to focus on Network activities, opportunities and updates. A new subscriber push is underway to increase the reach of this valuable resource.

## Key Results:

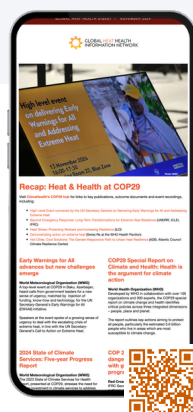
- 101,412 people visited [www.ghhin.org](http://www.ghhin.org) 129,887 times in 2024, an increase of 64% and 67% from 2023.
- 49,821 people visited [climahealth.info](http://climahealth.info) 62,720 times in 2024, an increase of 84% and 69% from 2023.
- 4,029 new resources, news and events were added to [climahealth.info](http://climahealth.info) in 2024, while 886 new resources, news and events were added to [www.ghhin.org](http://www.ghhin.org).
- Key global events, campaigns and activities were promoted and



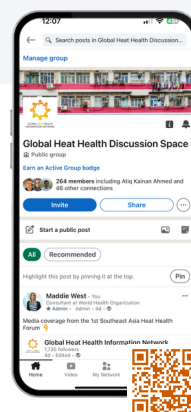
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