



Climate Week NYC Climate and Health Solutions Roundtable: White Paper

October 2025



Introducing the Climate and Health Solutions Roundtable

KPMG convened senior leaders from government, business, multilateral organizations, and civil society for an invite-only roundtable to explore solutions at the intersection of climate and health.

Held during the 80th UN General Assembly and Climate Week NYC, the session focused on:

- The case for urgent action, especially in vulnerable settings,
- Tangible, investable solutions already being implemented, and,
- Pathways for collaboration to scale impact.

Attendees included: Amref Health Africa, Barbados Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, Billion Minds Institute, Clinton Foundation, Hippocratic AI, Island Innovation, National Development Planning Commission of Ghana, Resilient Cities Network, UNHCR, UNICEF, University of West Indies, World Economic Forum.

This document summarizes the key insights from the roundtable, showcasing existing solutions and articulating next steps.

The case for urgent action

The case for action on the climate and health nexus, particularly the urgent need to invest in climate-resilient health systems in vulnerable settings, is clear. It is estimated that:

- By 2050, climate change will cause an additional **14.5 million deaths**¹.
- This impact will disproportionately fall on Low-and-Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), which account for 90% of deaths from weather, climate, and water related hazards².
- Economically, by 2050, climate change will cause an additional **\$12.5 trillion in economic losses worldwide**. Climate-induced impact will account for a further \$1.1 trillion in extra costs to already strained health systems¹.
- Additional lost productivity due to climate-health impacts could cost the global economy **\$1.5 trillion by 2050**³.
- In 69 LMICs, the global health costs from climate change could reach between **\$8.6 and \$20.8 trillion by 2050**⁴.

There is a **clear return** on proactively investing in health system climate resilience:

- According to the World Resources Institute, **every \$1 invested in climate adaptation yields \$10+ in benefits over 10 years**. In the health sector, ROI is even higher: **78% average return**, driven by lives saved and reduced disease burden⁵.
- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health estimates **\$6 in health benefits for every \$1 invested in climate resilience**⁶.
- Opportunities exist to develop climate-focused treatments and technologies, with an emphasis on preventive care.

1) World Economic Forum. (2024). *Quantifying the Impact of Climate Change on Human Health*. <https://www.weforum.org/publications/quantifying-the-impact-of-climate-change-on-human-health/>

2) World Meteorological Organization. (2023). *Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water-related Hazards (1970-2021)*. <https://wmo.int/publication-series/atlas-of-mortality-and-economic-losses-from-weather-climate-and-water-related-hazards-1970-2021>

3) World Economic Forum. (2025). *Building Economic Resilience to the Health Impacts of Climate Change*. <https://www.weforum.org/publications/building-economic-resilience-to-the-health-impacts-of-climate-change/>

4) World Bank. (2024). *The Cost of Inaction: Quantifying the Impact of Climate Change on Health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries*. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/be56eef5-60bc-4a14-b403-698d43ebef19>

5) World Resources Institute. (2025). *Strengthening the Investment Case for Climate Adaptation: A Triple Dividend Approach*. <https://doi.org/10.46830/wriwp.25.00019>

6) Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. (2024). *Investing in climate resilience benefits people, planet*. <https://hsph.harvard.edu/news/investing-in-climate-resilience-benefits-people-planet/>

Challenges and solutions

Challenges remain in taking action on the climate and health nexus:

- **Financing:** climate-health initiatives fall between traditional funding categories. Accreditation processes for climate finance are slow and complex. Governments and NGOs struggle to navigate fragmented funding mechanisms.
- **Data:** many regions lack localized, reliable data to quantify climate-health risks, which makes it hard to justify investment.
- **Siloes:** the climate and the health sectors are siloed, speaking different languages.
- **Ministries of Health and Environment** rarely collaborate systematically.
- **Scale:** successful projects remain small and localized. Governance structures and pipelines for scale are in development.
- **Policy:** policy responses to climate-health threats are hampered by fragmented governance across institutions, slow processes, and lack of incentives for long-term planning.

However, **solutions** exist and are being implemented:

- **UNICEF's Today & Tomorrow Initiative**¹ is the first integrated climate and disaster risk finance mechanism, including a parametric insurance product to protect children, with successful pilot implemented in eight countries.
- **Amref's advocacy work**² globally is positioning health on the official climate negotiation agenda. With partners including KPMG, Amref supports the establishment of gender-responsive and climate-resilient primary health care systems in fourteen African countries, through the [East and Southern African Regional Hub for Research and Policy on Climate Change](#)³.
- The **World Economic Forum** publishes insights articulating the human and financial case for action on climate and health (ex: [Economic Resilience to the Health Impacts of Climate Change](#) and [Quantifying the Impact of Climate Change on Human Health](#) and a [mapping of stakeholders working on the climate and health agenda](#))^{4,5,6}.
- **University of the West Indies** in Barbados is leading research on the impacts of climate change on mental health, with the [Connecting Climate Minds Initiative](#)⁷.
- The **Billion Minds Institute**⁸ supports establishment of community-based mental health resilience programs as part of climate adaptation, shifting from clinical to civic models of care.
- **Hippocratic AI** uses its digital agents to act as [early warning systems](#)⁹ in health systems globally, warning of upcoming heat waves by calling vulnerable populations and sharing public health information.

1) UNICEF. (2024). UNICEF's Today & Tomorrow Initiative. <https://www.unicef.org/documents/today-tomorrow>

2) Amref Health Africa. (2023). The Common African Position on Climate Change & Health. <https://amref.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Africa-Common-Position-Climate-and-Health-1.pdf>

3) Amref Health Africa. (2025). Request for Proposal: East and Southern African Regional Hub for Research and Policy on Climate Change. <https://amref.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/RESEARCH-EOI.pdf>

4) World Economic Forum. (2025). Building Economic Resilience to the Health Impacts of Climate Change. <https://www.weforum.org/publications/building-economic-resilience-to-the-health-impacts-of-climate-change/>

5) World Economic Forum. (2024). Quantifying the Impact of Climate Change on Human Health. <https://www.weforum.org/publications/quantifying-the-impact-of-climate-change-on-human-health/>

6) World Economic Forum. (2025). Climate and Health Action Map for Stakeholders (CHAMPS). <https://initiatives.weforum.org/climate-and-health/champs>

7) University of the West Indies. (n.d.). Connecting Climate Minds: Regional Community Convenor (Latin America and the Caribbean). <https://www.connectingclimateminds.org/latin-america-and-the-caribbean>

8) Billion Minds Institute. (2025). Billion Minds Institute: Homepage. <https://abillion.org/>

9) Business Wire. (2025). Hippocratic AI and ERAAS Health Partner to Deliver Real-Time, Climate-Responsive Outreach for At-Risk Populations. <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20250925305955/en/Hippocratic-AI-and-ERAAS-Health-Partner-to-Deliver-Real-Time-Climate-Responsive-Outreach-for-At-Risk-Populations>

Recommendations for action

- **Establish solution-oriented collaboration mechanisms:** create a community of practice connecting the most climate-vulnerable regions, particularly SIDS and Africa to enable collaboration, advocacy, and shared visibility of successful models.
- **Conduct localized risk assessment:** ministries of health and partners should begin by conducting risk assessments of their health systems, ensuring use of local and regional data and evidence, then prioritizing the most important threats.
- **Integrate climate into strategic planning and policy:** embed climate resilience in health system strategies, cover infrastructure, workforce, and treatment pathways, using existing frameworks such as the [WHO Framework for Climate-Resilient Health Systems](#)¹. Simultaneously, ensure health is a core component of national adaptation plans. Coordinate policy frameworks at local, national, and international levels to mainstream climate considerations into health policy and vice versa.
- **Harness technology and innovation:** deploy digital tools, AI, and early warning systems to anticipate and respond to climate-health threats. Use integrated platforms to combine climate and health data, identify high-risk areas, and trigger timely interventions. Example: [Hippocratic AI's GenAI agents](#)² for heatwave alerts and public health education.
- **Mobilize innovative and blended finance:** scale up financing that combines public, private, and philanthropic capital to support resilient health infrastructure, workforce development, and supply chains. Prioritize accessible, outcome-driven financing mechanisms.
- **Track return on investment and health outcomes:** build a robust evidence base by monitoring the ROI of climate-health interventions, using existing frameworks (i.e., [WHO Framework for Economic Valuation of Health Outcomes from Climate Action](#) or the [UNEP Adaptation & Resilient Impact Framework for Investors](#))^{3,4}. Demonstrate that proactive adaptation is significantly more cost-effective than reactive responses. Use this data to attract further investment and policy support.

Next steps

The roundtable concluded with a call to collaborate on financing and scaling the solutions discussed. By bridging these domains and leveraging multidisciplinary teams, KPMG aims to advance the dialogue from identifying challenges to implementing solutions. The conversation will continue at **COP30**, focusing on climate health financing in vulnerable settings and in-depth case study discussions.

If you're interested in joining us, please reach out to charlottereboul@kpmg.bm.

1) World Health Organization. (2023). Operational framework for building climate resilient and low carbon health systems. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240081888>

2) Business Wire. (2025). Hippocratic AI and ERAAS Health Partner to Deliver Real-Time, Climate-Responsive Outreach for At-Risk Populations.

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20250925305955/en/Hippocratic-AI-and-ERAAS-Health-Partner-to-Deliver-Real-Time-Climate-Responsive-Outreach-for-At-Risk-Populations>

3) World Health Organization. (2023). A framework for the quantification and economic valuation of health outcomes originating from health and non-health climate change mitigation and adaptation action.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240057906>

4) UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative. (2024). Adaptation & Resilience Impact: A measurement framework for investors. <https://www.unepfi.org/themes/climate-change/adaptation-resilience-impact-a-measurement-framework-for-investors/>

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