

## Progress report on climate change, health and environment: a regional framework for action, 2023–2029

### Introduction

1. In October 2023, the 70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean endorsed resolution [EM/RC70/R.5](#) on climate change, health and environment: a regional framework for action, 2023–2029. The Committee requested the Regional Director to report on progress in implementing the regional framework to the Regional Committee at its 72nd, 74th and 76th sessions. This report describes the progress made since October 2023. Table 1 summarizes the achievements made as measured by the agreed set of the framework indicators.

**Table 1. Progress made in the regional framework for action, 2023–2029, by indicator**

Indicator	Baseline 2023	Status 2025	Target 2029	Progress
Number of countries/territories in the Region with an active climate change and health focal point	13	16	22	Iraq, Somalia and Yemen have new active climate and health focal points
Number of countries/territories in the Region committed to building a climate-resilient health system and facilities	13	16	22	Iraq, Qatar and Somalia have become members of Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH)
Number of countries/territories in the Region committed to building environmentally sustainable health facilities with low carbon-footprint	8	9	10	Somalia now committed
Number of countries/territories in the Region with climate change and health country profiles that are compiled/updated	12	12	22	No additional countries
Number of countries/territories in the Region with <b>Health National Adaptation Plans</b> (HNAPs) that are compiled and synchronized with National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)	1	1	13	Jordan has finalized an HNAP, Morocco and Tunisia have added a health section to their NAPs and draft HNAPs exist for Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, and have been initiated in Somalia, Tunisia and Yemen
Number of countries/territories in the Region with climate change-resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities	1	3	15	Jordan and Yemen have implemented measures to enhance climate resilience and environmental sustainability in selected health care facilities
Number of countries/territories reporting to the global climate change and health survey	9	16	22	The survey is currently being implemented
Number of countries/territories with health needs communicated through the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) processes	2	6	13	Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates reported their health needs to the NDC process in 2024
Number of countries/territories in the Region whose health professionals are active members in the UNFCCC negotiations	0	1	13	Tunisia was a very active negotiator in the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UNFCCC in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024

2. Since October 2023, WHO has supported activities at the regional and national levels in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, utilizing around US\$ 1.8 million raised from different donors. Several projects on climate change and health were implemented, including projects on building the climate resilience of health systems funded by the Wellcome Trust and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and a joint project with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) on climate change, health and migration. These projects aimed to build the capacities of health systems to adapt to climate change by supporting the development of climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments and health national adaptation plans. The projects also targeted health workers on all levels, raising their awareness and capacities to respond and adapt to climate change.

3. In 2022, WHO established the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH) to help committed countries in building climate-change-resilient and sustainable health systems and facilities. Regional meetings were held in September 2023 and October 2024 to track the progress made by countries of Region that are members of the Alliance in implementing their commitments to build climate resilient and sustainable health systems, identify their needs and challenges, and share knowledge and experiences. In addition, a virtual meeting was organized in June 2024 to consult with countries of the Region on developing a research agenda on climate and health.

4. National capacity-building workshops on climate change and health and building climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable low-carbon health systems were held in Egypt, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Virtual meetings were organized to identify priority research areas at the national level in Lebanon and Morocco. Technical support was provided to Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon to implement their components of the IOM/UNDRR/WHO joint project on climate change, health and migration.

### **The way forward**

5. WHO will continue to advocate for additional countries to join ATACH. Qatar joined in August 2025 and WHO will now look to support capacity-building workshops on using the Organization's tools to build the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of the country's health system and facilities.

6. Efforts will continue to help the countries of the Region to meet their commitments to building climate-resilient health systems, and a regional index will be compiled of climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities. WHO will continue to mobilize resources for regional and national climate and health projects.

7. WHO supported the active participation of countries of the Region in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conferences of the Parties held in the United Arab Emirates (COP28) and Azerbaijan (COP29) in 2023 and 2024, respectively, and will continue to do so for COP30, to be held in Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2025. This will add the voice of the Region to the global call to position health high on the agenda in global climate change discussions.