



Key 2018 Adaptation Gap Report outcomes

EU4Climate Sectoral Adaptation Workshop: Health Care

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Health and Climate Adaptation

UNEP's AGR

- Published by UNEP since 2014
 - Exploring adaptation gaps, characterized as the difference between the actual level of adaptation and the level required to achieve a societal goal
 - Based on the available scientific evidence on climate impacts and health outcomes, provides an overview of the global adaptation gap in health, followed by a specific focus on three key areas of climate-related health risks: heat and extreme events, climate-sensitive infectious diseases, and food and nutritional security
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THE ADAPTATION GAP

HEALTH
REPORT





Health sector exposure to climate change

- **Several million deaths are caused by environmental factors**, many of which are aggravated by climate change or its drivers
- **Climate change most often acts as a multiplier of global health threats**, compounding many of the health issues communities already face, disproportionately affecting the health of vulnerable groups, particularly in lower income countries, and exacerbating inequalities



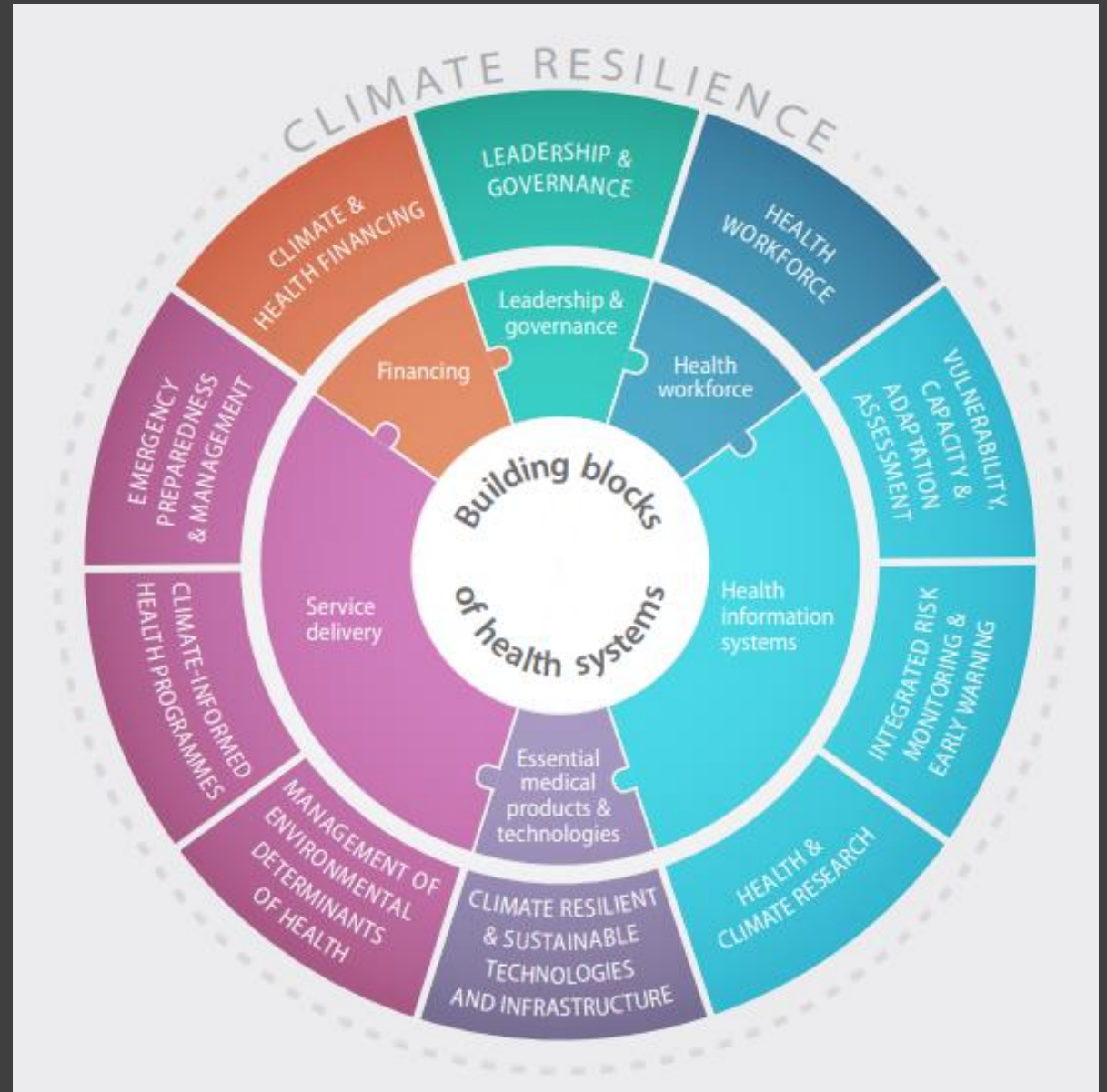
2018AGR: Key outcomes

- There is a significant global health adaptation gap today
- Unless adaptation efforts are strengthened considerably, heat and extreme event-related morbidity and mortality will continue to rise.
- There are few robust global estimates of the health impacts caused by weather extremes, climate-sensitive infectious diseases and undernutrition.
- substantial gaps in knowledge and data coverage that need to be overcome in order to improve assessments of progress on adaptation efforts, although improvements can be expected as tracking the SDG and Sendai Framework targets gets underway
- There is limited information on the costs of adaptation in health
- International climate finance for health has been negligible

What is health care adaptation?

- Health adaptation is the process of “designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating strategies, policies and programmes to manage the risks of climate-relevant health outcomes” (WHO, 2014)
- Health system adaptation actions include those critical for strengthening key functions and improving the management of current climate-sensitive risks, many of which relate to providing adequate resources, technologies and information or knowledge to health decision-makers
- Protecting the health of populations from climate change requires strengthening key health system functions and improving the management of current climate-sensitive risks

Ten components for building climate resilient health systems and the main connections to the building blocks of health systems



Health adaptation gap today:

- While progress has been made in reducing climate sensitive diseases and injuries, current adaptation efforts are well below the level required to avoid or minimize negative health impacts;
- Acknowledging the diversity of national circumstances with great variation both across and within countries and regions, a substantial proportion of the current climate-related impacts on mortality, illness and decrements in the quality of life is preventable.
- In developing country settings, the prevention of much of the impact on health will depend largely on basic development activities that address key social and environmental determinants of health
- High connection with basic economic income, access to energy and other goods more than 100 million people living in extreme poverty, reversing past progress with development and exposing them to additional health risks

Exposure / Outcome	Current impacts	Projected impacts
Heat waves	<p>The 2003 heatwave in Western Europe resulted in over 70,000 excess deaths;</p> <p>In summer 2018 around 22,000 people were reported to have been taken to hospital with symptoms of heat stroke during a heatwave in Japan</p>	<p>Global projections (WHO, 2014):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With no adaptation, additional annual deaths aged 65 and older estimated at over 92,000 in 2030 and around 255,000 in 2050. • With 50% adaptation, additional annual mortality estimated at around 38,000 in 2030 and 95,000 in 2050. • With 100% adaptation, attributable mortality drops to near zero.
Flooding	<p>Affected 2 billion people in the last two decades (UNISDR, 2018).</p> <p>Psychological morbidity may represent up to 80% of the longer term attributable health burden</p>	<p>Projections are highly uncertain.</p>
Water- and food-borne disease	<p>In Europe, the most prevalent water- and food-borne disease is campylobacteriosis, which is highly sensitive to climate;</p> <p>600 million food-borne illnesses and 420,000 associated deaths in 2010</p>	<p>In Europe in the 2080s, climate change could induce an additional 40,000 cases of salmonella annually (Watkiss et al., 2009).</p> <p>Global projections (WHO, 2014): 60,000 additional deaths per year from malaria for the year 2030 and 33,000 deaths for 2050</p>

Costs and benefits of activities

- Ill health and premature mortality related to climate variability and change incur significant economic costs to health systems and society, which are expected to rise in the future.
- Early warning systems for heat waves yield high benefits compared to their economic costs (benefit-to-cost ratios for heat-wave warning systems were estimated at 11 for London, 308 for Prague and 913 for Madrid, increasing much further in the near future under all climate scenarios)
- The World Health Organization estimated that the direct damage costs to health would amount to US\$2-4 billion a year by 2030
- Many actions designed to adapt to the health impacts of climate change may be considered low or no-regret measures – those that lessen future trends in exposure, vulnerability and climate extremes while addressing current impacts.

Bridging the adaptation gap in health



**Climate proofing health
systems**



**Investing in capacity-building
and preparedness**

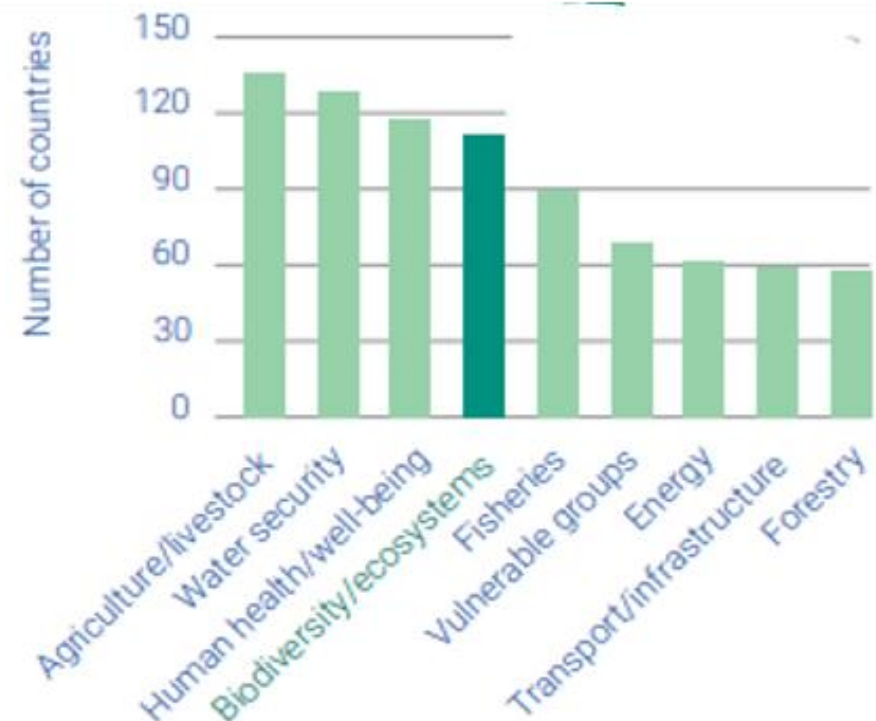


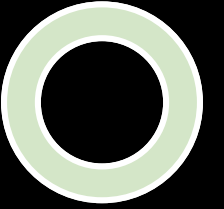
**Integration of health into
broader policy frameworks**

Health care adaptation planning

- **Include health care to NDCs:** 54 percent of Nationally Determined Contributions protecting health and well-being is a priority sector
- **Assess climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation** identify and interpret the information needed to prepare health systems for the impacts of climate change and are conducted by health authorities from the local to international levels. They provide the data required to develop robust adaptation strategies or action plans and processes

In 2018, 92 countries had conducted national assessments covering high- and low-income countries in all regions of the world



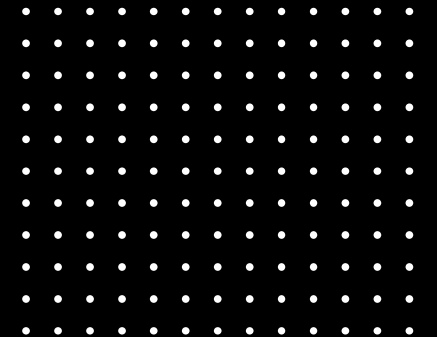


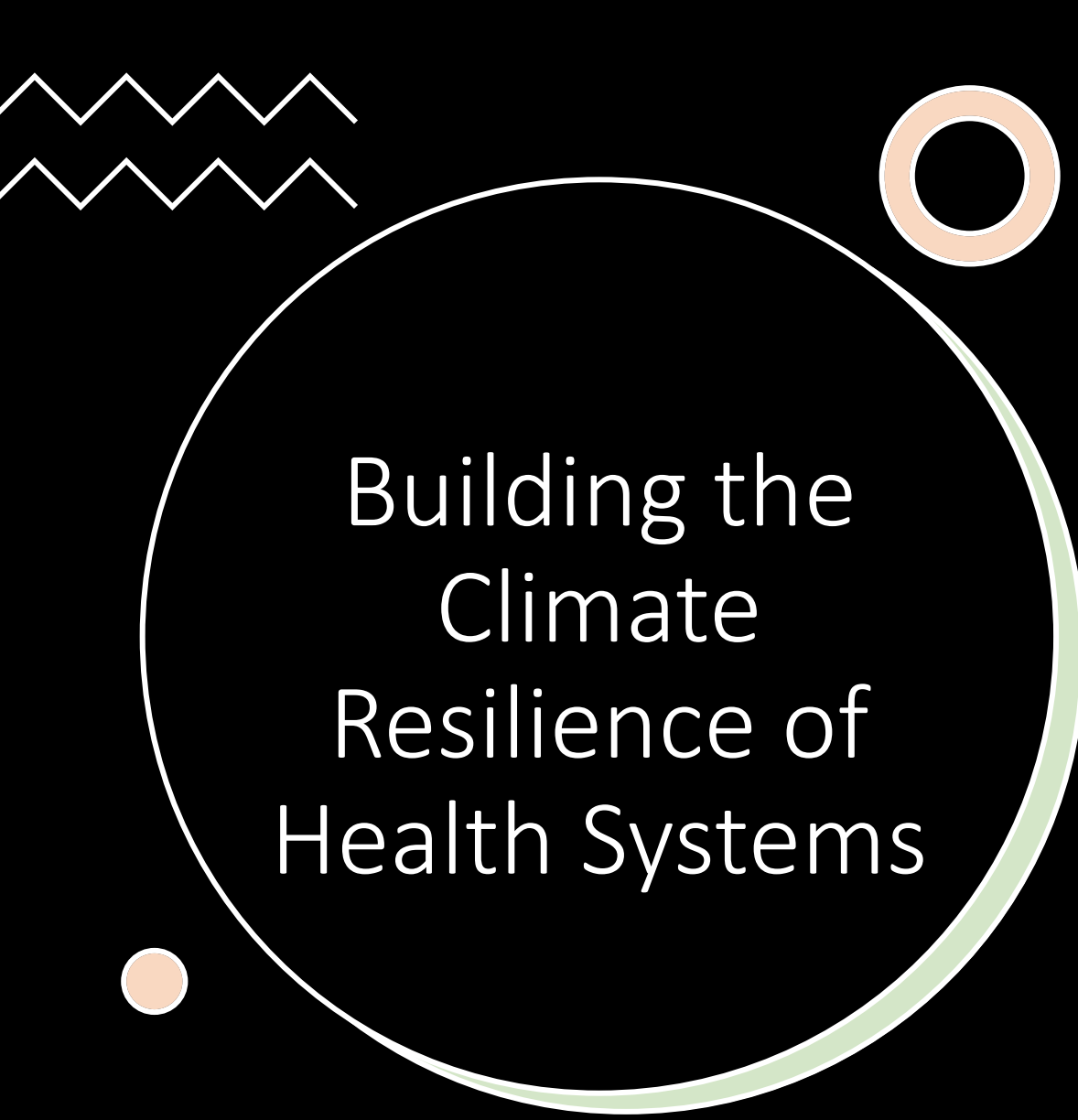
- identify a country's key climate-change risks to health, the priority adaptations, partners and resources that are needed for action, and the timeframe over which the objectives will be achieved

Action plans should **mainstream climate change information into a broad range of health policies**, programs and services.

Vulnerability to health impacts necessitates **the regular review and updating of action plans based upon monitoring of outcomes** to ensure they are fully protective of health, including that of the most vulnerable in society.

Climate change and health action plans, strategies and profiles





Building the Climate Resilience of Health Systems

A key priority, given how many climate-related risks, and specifically extreme weather events, are expected to worsen under likely climate scenarios

- The climate resilience of health systems not only depends on the facilities, but also on health workforce preparedness for climate-related threats relevant to their patients and practice
- very limited training and educational opportunities are being provided for health sector workers
- health system resilience and the ability of health authorities to reduce climate impacts can be greatly strengthened through integrated risk monitoring and early warning systems
- To plan for greater climate-related hazards health authorities will need to follow an iterative risk management approach based upon wide stakeholder engagement and development of flexible and adjustable policies that can respond to uncertain health risks that change across time and across locations
- Evidence from regular national assessments should be used to routinely monitor the success of adaptation actions, and make course corrections



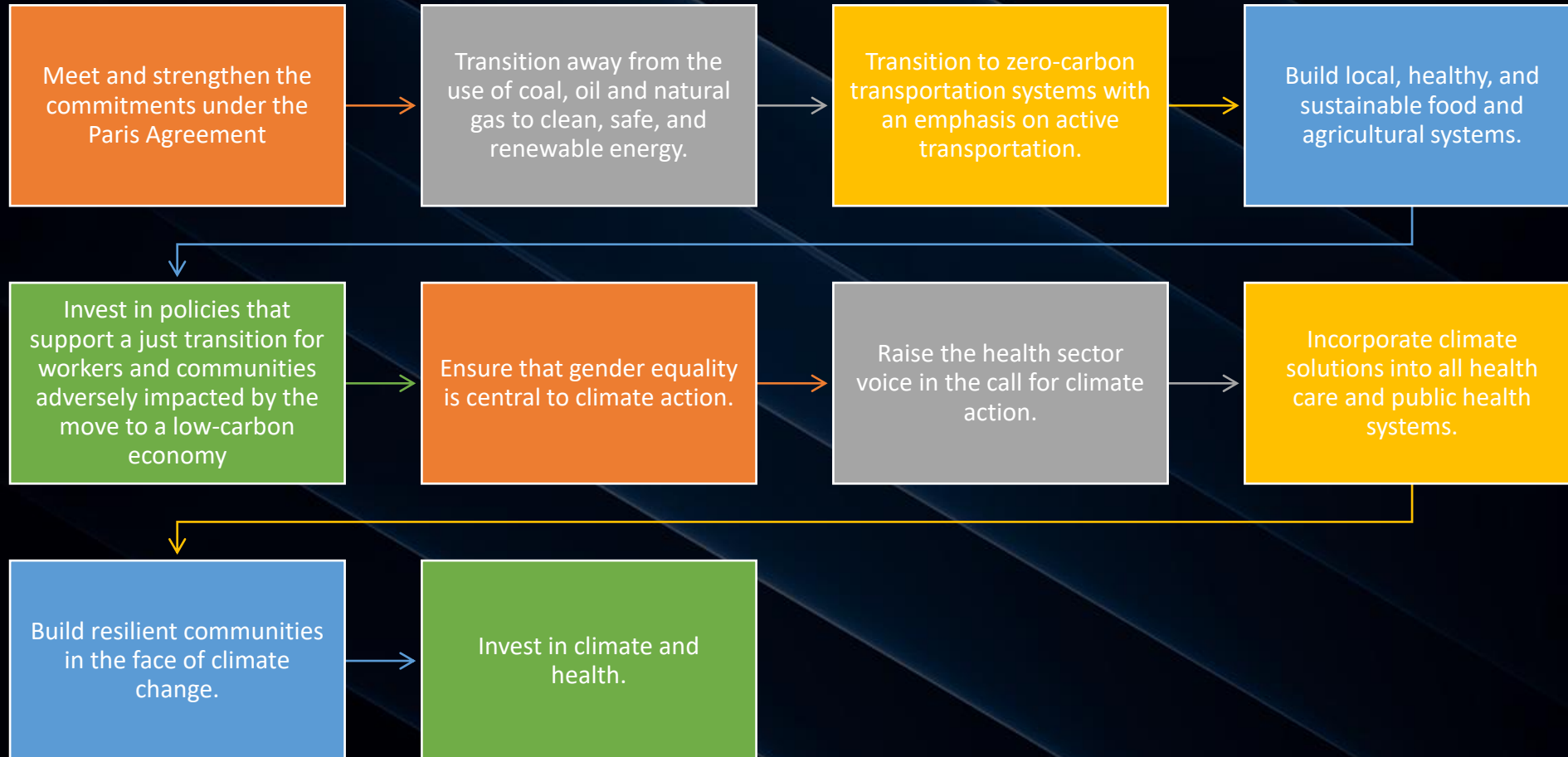
ENHANCING CROSS-SECTORAL COLLABORATION

- **Adaptation to climate change impacts in several areas** (for example, agriculture, water and sanitation, infrastructure, transport, energy and urban design) is crucial in reducing the impacts on health and well-being
- Climate resilient health systems are most effectively developed when achieving synergies with actions in complementary initiatives such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations' SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the International Health Regulations, among others.
- national and subnational authorities should enable the effective engagement of health professionals in advocacy against climate change

health-sector advocacy to promote climate change action

- WHO
- Climate and Clean Air Coalition
- Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves
- World Medical Association
- Health Care Without Harm
- Global Climate and Health Alliance
- At the Global Climate and Health Forum in 2018 a call to action outlining ten priority actions to protect people's health from climate change was signed by fifty health organizations, representing millions of health professionals and thousands of hospitals

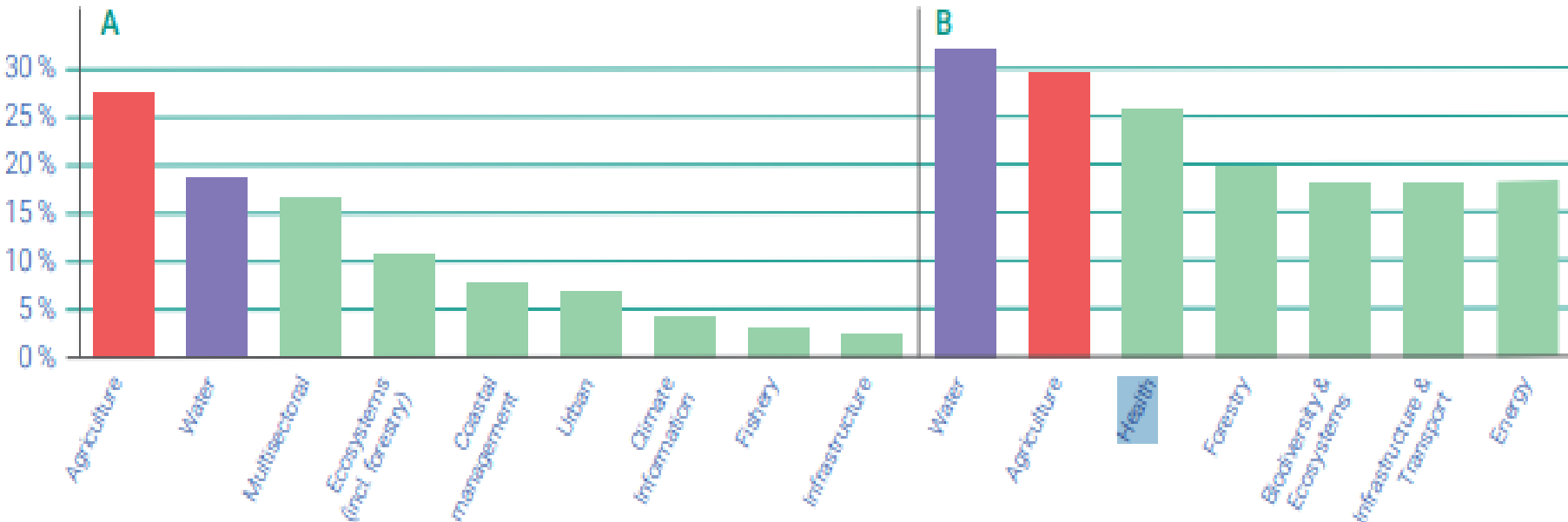
The Call to Action on Climate and Health



FUNDING HEALTH ADAPTATION

- **Multilateral funds:** Special Climate Change Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience, the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, among others.
- **Participation by the health sector in accessing adaptation funds has been very low.** For instance, health is the only sector for which there is no correlation between countries highlighting the sector as a priority in their NDCs and Green Climate Fund financed projects
- Between 2003 and 2017 **less than one percent** of international finance for climate change adaptation was allocated to health adaptation despite the high levels of engagement by health officials in adaptation planning processes such as NAP, suggesting that faster implementation of agreed NAP priorities should help
- **The engagement of health officials in other processes geared towards supporting adaptation implementation** (for example, Technology Needs Assessments, Climate Technology Centre Network proposals, Multilateral Development Banks-supported portfolios) **should be expanded.**
- resources should be dedicated to building the capacities of health administrators and institutions to apply for or access national and international adaptation funding, whether private or public.

Figure 5.3. Panel A: Primary sectors of UNFCCC climate fund adaptation projects since 2015
Panel B: Sectors identified as adaptation priorities in the first round of NDCs



Note: Agriculture and water were marked in the same colour in both panels to highlight the alignment of the top two sectors between UNFCCC adaptation projects and NDCs. **Panel A** is based on the primary sector of each of the 203 projects (the designation of sectors used by UNFCCC funds is not harmonized, therefore, a reassignment was necessary to obtain comparability). The bars in **Panel A** add up to 100 per cent because each project was assigned to just one primary sector (1.5 per cent were left unassigned due to missing project documents). **Panel B** shows the five most frequently mentioned priority adaptation sectors in the first round of NDCs (GIZ 2020). The bars in Panel B do not add up to 100 per cent because each NDC mentions multiple adaptation priorities.

More information

- **Adaptation Gap report 2018 with a special part, dedicated to health:**

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2018>

- Adaptation Gap report 2020

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2020>

- The Adaptation Finance Gap Report:

<https://unepdtu.org/publications/the-adaptation-finance-gap-report/>

- The Call to Action on Climate and Health

<https://www.globalclimateandhealthforum.org/call-to-action>