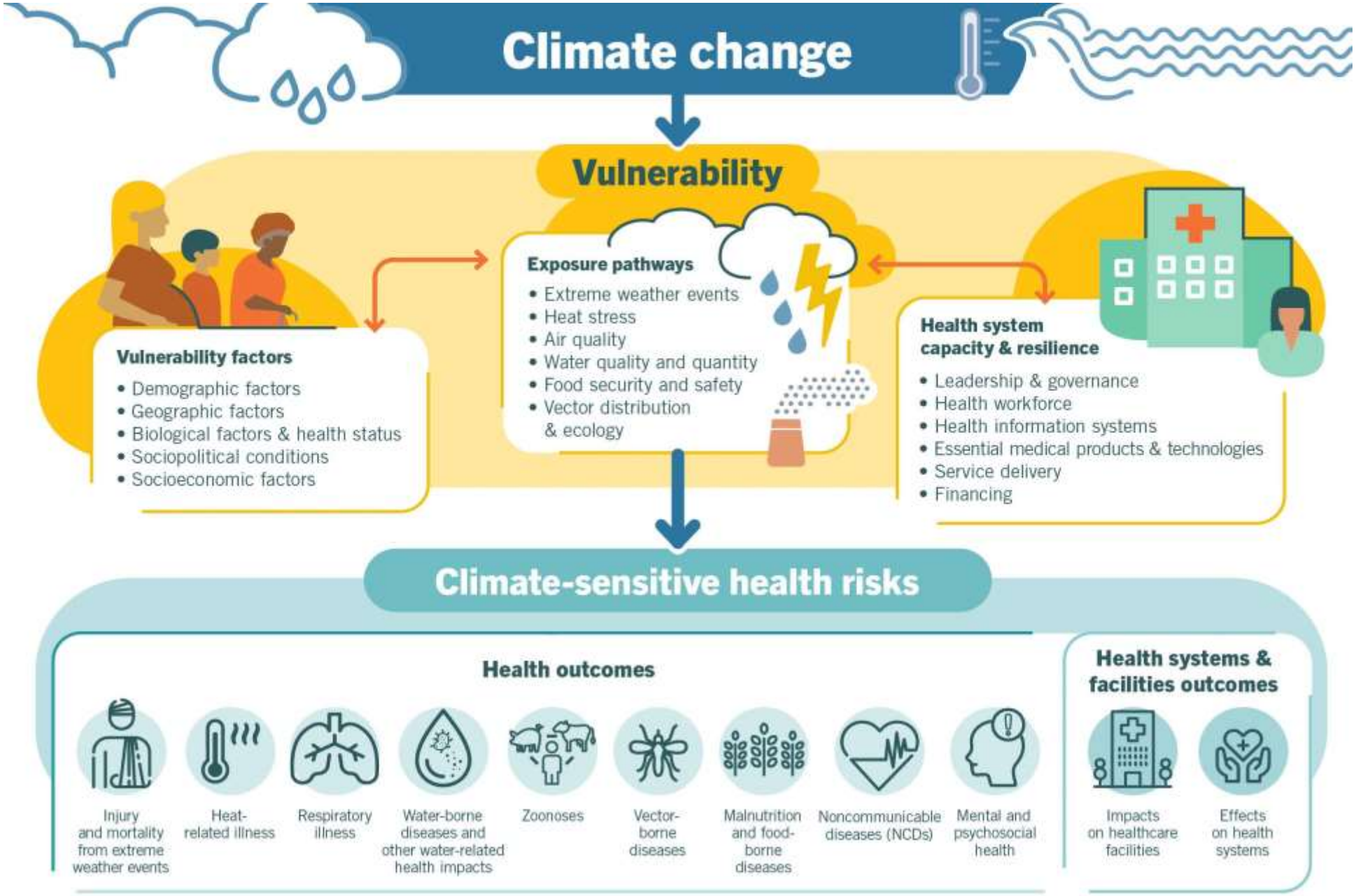
Climate and Health in CAREC

29 May 2024 | Almaty, Kazakhstan



Source: World Health Organization: WHO. (2023, October 12). *Climate change*. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health

Impact of Climate Change on Health

WHO calls climate the **“Biggest health threat of the 21st century and beyond”**

5.6 billion people affected and $1.5 trillion lost due to climate change in past 30 years

$ 2-4 billion direct damage costs* per year to health by 2030

Only 0.5% of multilateral climate funding is allocated to projects that explicitly address human health.

*Direct damages refer to the physical or structural impact caused by the climate change such as the destruction of infrastructure caused by the force of high winds, flooding or ground shaking

Source: World Health Organization: WHO. (2023, October 12). *Climate change*. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health

Health Sectors Contribution to Climate Change

The healthcare sector would be the **5th largest emitter on the planet,** if it was a country

Healthcare climate footprint equivalent to annual **GHG emissions from 514 coal-fired power plants**

Healthcare produces **5.9 million tons of medical waste per year**

Supply chain contribute to 71% of the health sector's carbon footprint

Health sector emissions to triple by 2050 reaching 6 gigatons per year in case of inaction

Source: Health care's climate footprint how the health sector contributes to the global climate crisis and opportunities for action. (2019). *Healthcare Without Harm and Arup*. https://noharm-global.org/sites/default/files/documents-files/5961/HealthCaresClimateFootprint_092319.pdf

Key Climate and Health Issues in the CAREC Region

Heat Stress

- Heatwaves that will increase heat stress and heat related morbidity and mortality, including non-communicable diseases
- Without effective adaptation measures taken, annual heat-related mortality in the Central Asian region might rise by 139% by 2030 and 301% by 2050. (1)

Vector distribution

- Emergence of novel infectious diseases (e.g. COVID-19), rising occurrences of zoonotic diseases and spill-overs and an encroachment of infectious disease vectors into previously unaffected geographic locations and altitudes. Risk that some diseases might be reintroduced after having successfully been eradicated (e.g. Malaria).

Food Security and Safety

- Various impacts on food systems through water scarcity, droughts, melting glaciers, desertification can lead to declines in agricultural productivity, resulting in increased malnutrition and climate change migration.

Extreme Weather events

- Climate change threatens health security by increasing the frequency, length, and intensity of public health emergencies, or by creating compound disasters with severe and widespread adverse effects. Climate change has also been identified as a multiplier, which can exacerbate existing threats to human health and inequities that result in more severe consequences for vulnerable populations.

(1) Honda Y, Kondo M, McGregor G, Kim H, Guo Y-L, Hijioka Y, Yoshikawa M, Oka K, Takano S, Hales S (2014) Heat-related mortality risk model for climate change impact projection. Environ Health Prev Med 19:56–63

CAREC Health Strategy 2030

Strategic Framework

Climate Change and Health Actions

PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4
Leadership and human resource capacity	Technical preparedness (Surveillance and Labs)	Access to Supplies and Surge Capacity	Vulnerable population groups and border health
Knowledge exchange on health and climate change	Develop country capacities on sex-disaggregated climate-related disease and risk surveillance and assessment on health and climate change.		Community-level awareness and resilience on climate and health
Integration of climate change and health security into prevention, preparedness response plans e.g., in NAPHS	Develop database on sex-disaggregated climate change-related health outcomes		Low carbon and climate resilient and low carbon health facilities in border areas
Governance structure with legal and regulatory framework (national focal points on health and climate change in all sectors)	Research gender-differentiated effects of climate change on health		
Develop workforce capacity on climate change and health			