

Health Threats from Drought

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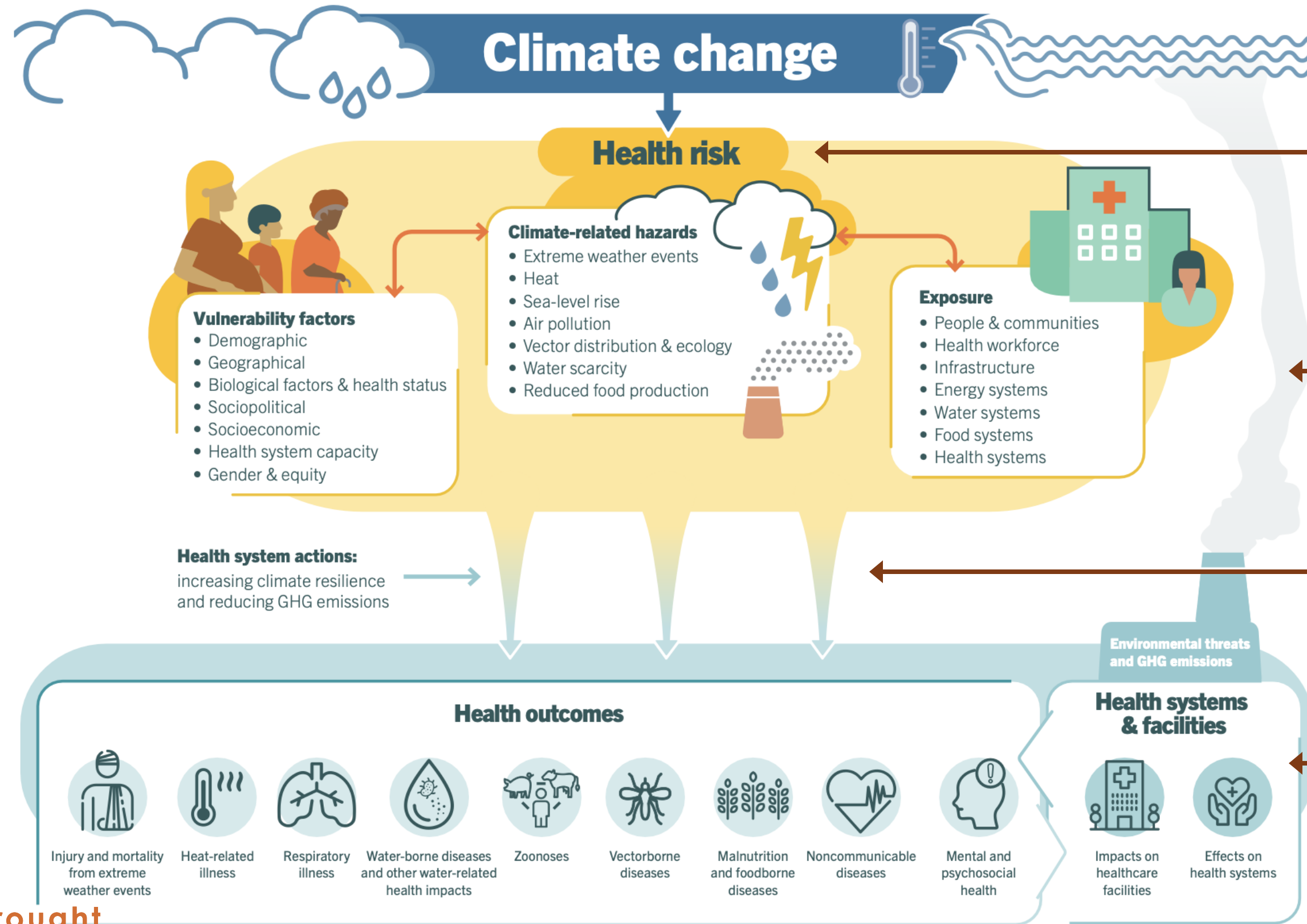
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World Health
Organization

Climate change risks to human health and health systems



Health risks result from a combination of multiple hazards, diverse vulnerabilities, and multiple exposures and exposure pathways.

Health systems can also have an impact on the environment and contribute to climate change through GHG emissions.

Health systems actions should aim to modulate health risks by increasing resilience and reducing GHG emissions.

Such actions can help reduce adverse health outcomes and impacts on health systems and facilities

Drought exposure pathways and health outcomes

Possible exposure pathways

- Reduction in or lack of access to water;
- Hygiene services reduction;
- Water and food contamination;
- Food insecurity;
- Changes in vector habitat (including that of mosquitos, ticks and rodents);
- Air pollution, increased dust;
- Hot temperatures, dry air;
- Lack of power;
- Water pollutants (iron, manganese, fluoride, arsenic) and salinity concentrations;
- Cyanobacterial blooms;
- Reduced soil moisture;
- Increasing frequency of warm days and nights;
- Displaced populations

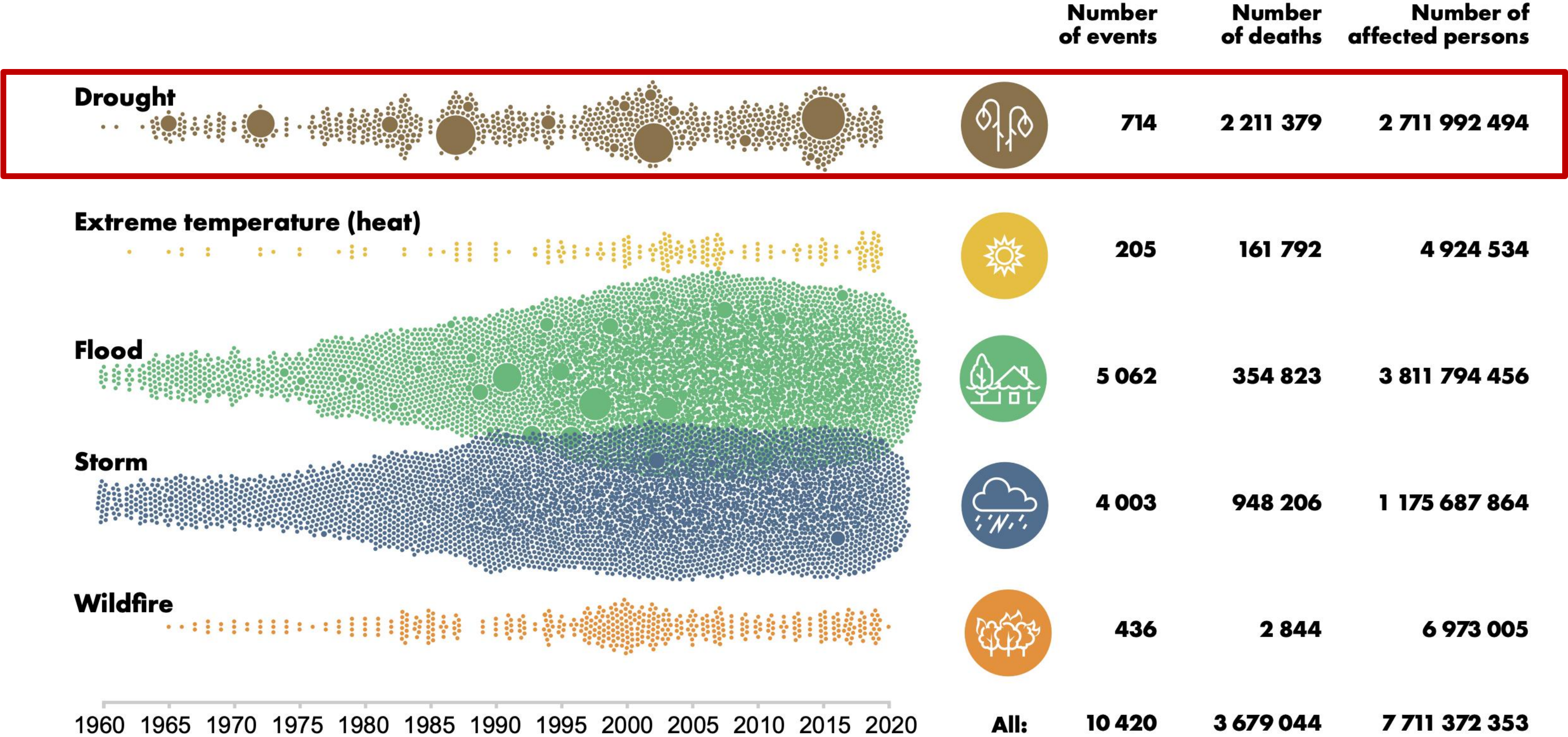
Climate-sensitive diseases (infectious diseases)

- Diarrhoeal diseases; cholera; Hepatitis A;
- Vector-borne diseases (dengue, malaria, Zika virus disease, chikungunya, Lyme disease, West Nile virus fever, Valley fever);
- Zoonotic diseases;
- Intestinal nematode infections;
- Respiratory infections;
- Eye and skin infections (scabies, trachoma, conjunctivitis);
- Meningococcal meningitis

Climate-sensitive health outcomes (noncommunicable diseases and unintentional Injuries)

- Cardiovascular diseases;
- Chronic respiratory diseases (asthma, COPD, respiratory allergies);
- Kidney diseases;
- Cancers (skin, bladder, lung);
- Protein-energy malnutrition;
- Mental health effects (stress, anxiety and depression);
- Eyes, nose and skin irritation;
- Musculoskeletal problems

Number of events, deaths and affected persons since 1960, for drought, extreme temperature (heat), flood, storm and wildfire

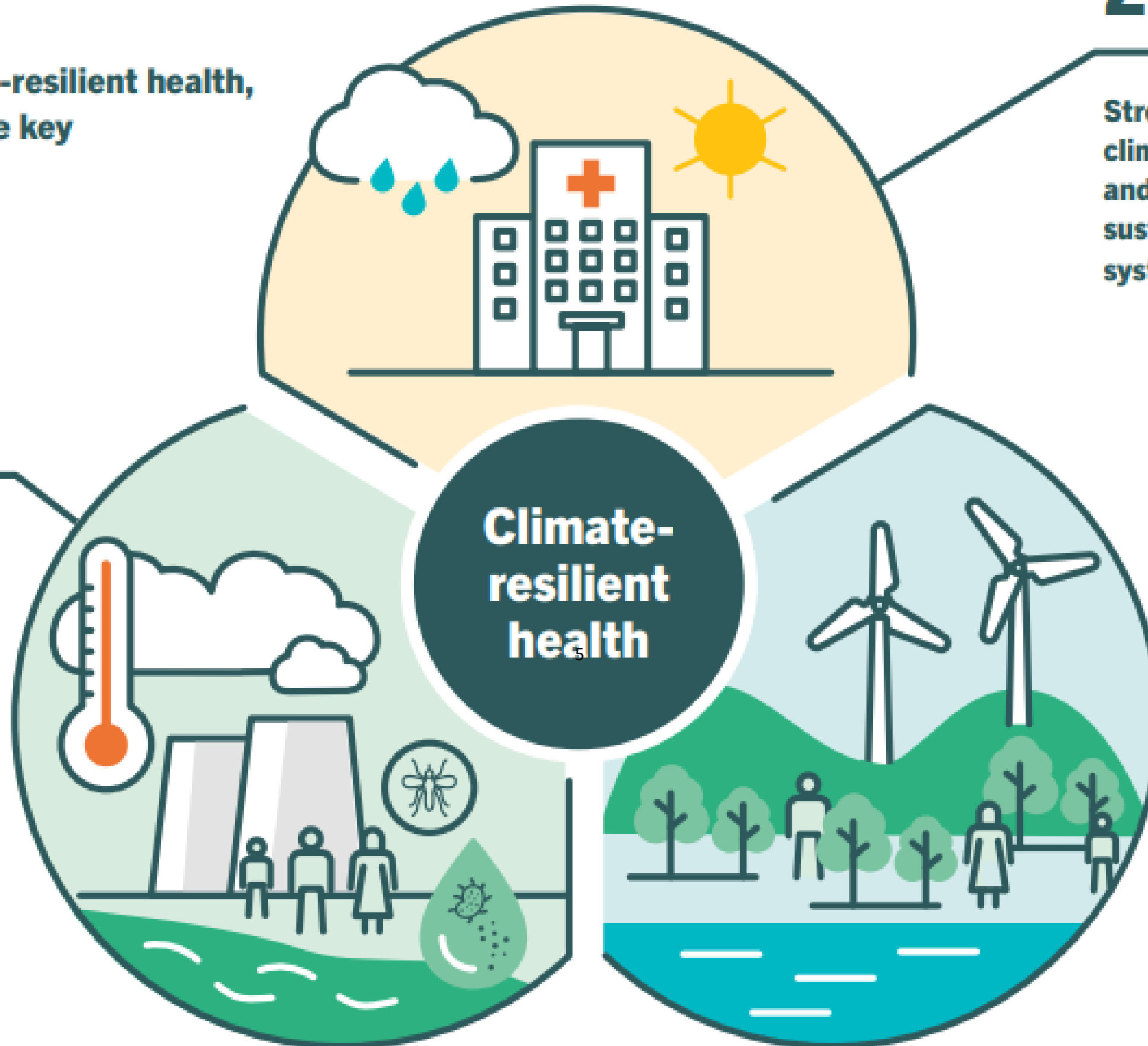


Key Focus Areas

To advance climate-resilient health, WHO works in three key focus areas:

1

Addressing the wide range of health impacts of climate change



2

Strengthening the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems and facilities

3

Promoting the health co-benefits of climate change mitigation in other sectors

Building climate-resilient health

This document aims to help users navigate the climate change and health technical support package offered by the World Health Organization. It is structured around five key areas of support and explains what tools, resources, and assistance are available.

5. Monitoring climate change and health progress

Regular monitoring of national health sector response to climate change, highlights the progress made by governments towards strengthening the resilience of health systems while identifying priority areas for improvement.

[Learn more →](#)

1. Assessing health risks and co-benefits

Assessing health vulnerability to climate change at population and facility level and understanding the potential health co-benefits of climate action will provide the required evidence to protect and promote health in a changing climate.

[Learn more →](#)

2. Climate change and health planning

Through comprehensive and systematic climate change and health planning, countries can identify required interventions to address climate-sensitive health risks at population and health system and facility level.

[Learn more →](#)

4. Implementing climate change and health interventions

A wide range of interventions and tools are available to support countries in their efforts to strengthen the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems and facilities.

[Learn more →](#)

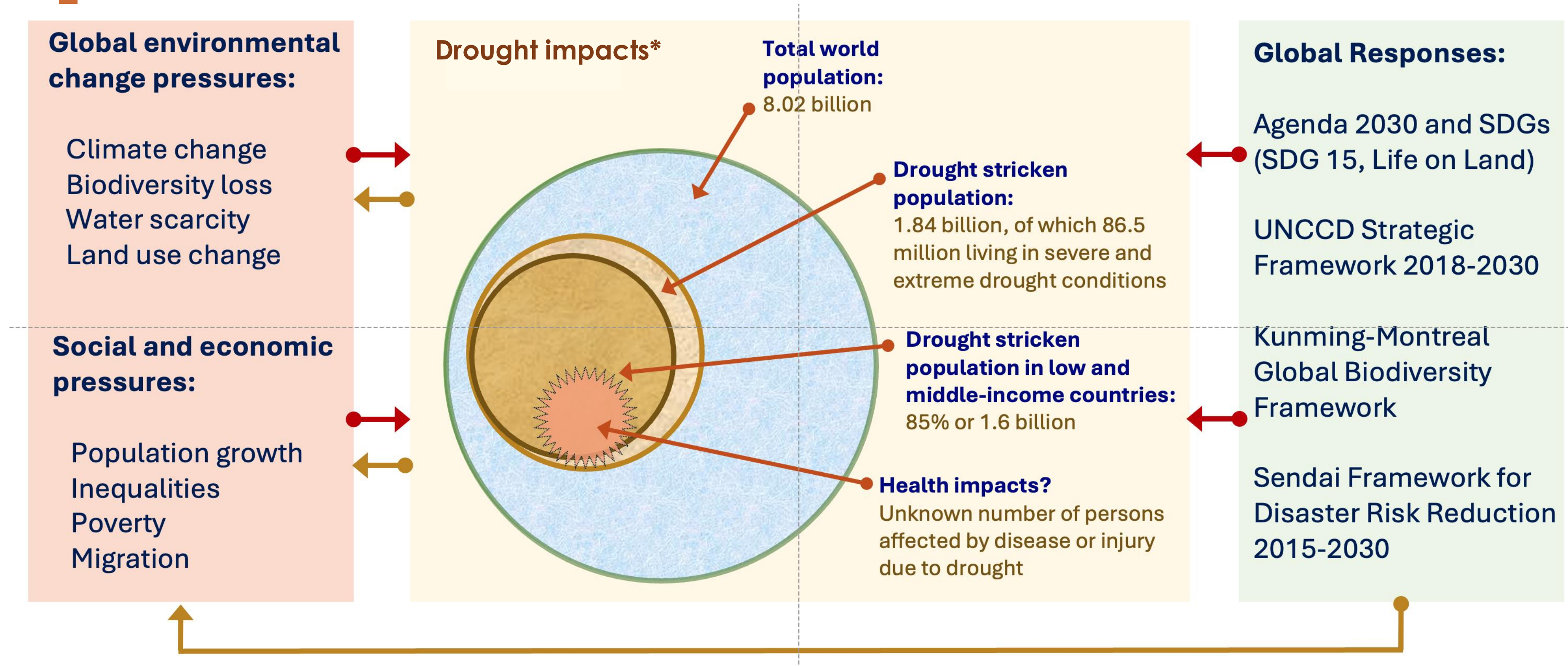
3. Financing climate change and health

Climate change financing, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), can be accessed to strengthen the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of health systems and facilities and to promote the health co-benefits of mitigation across multiple sectors.

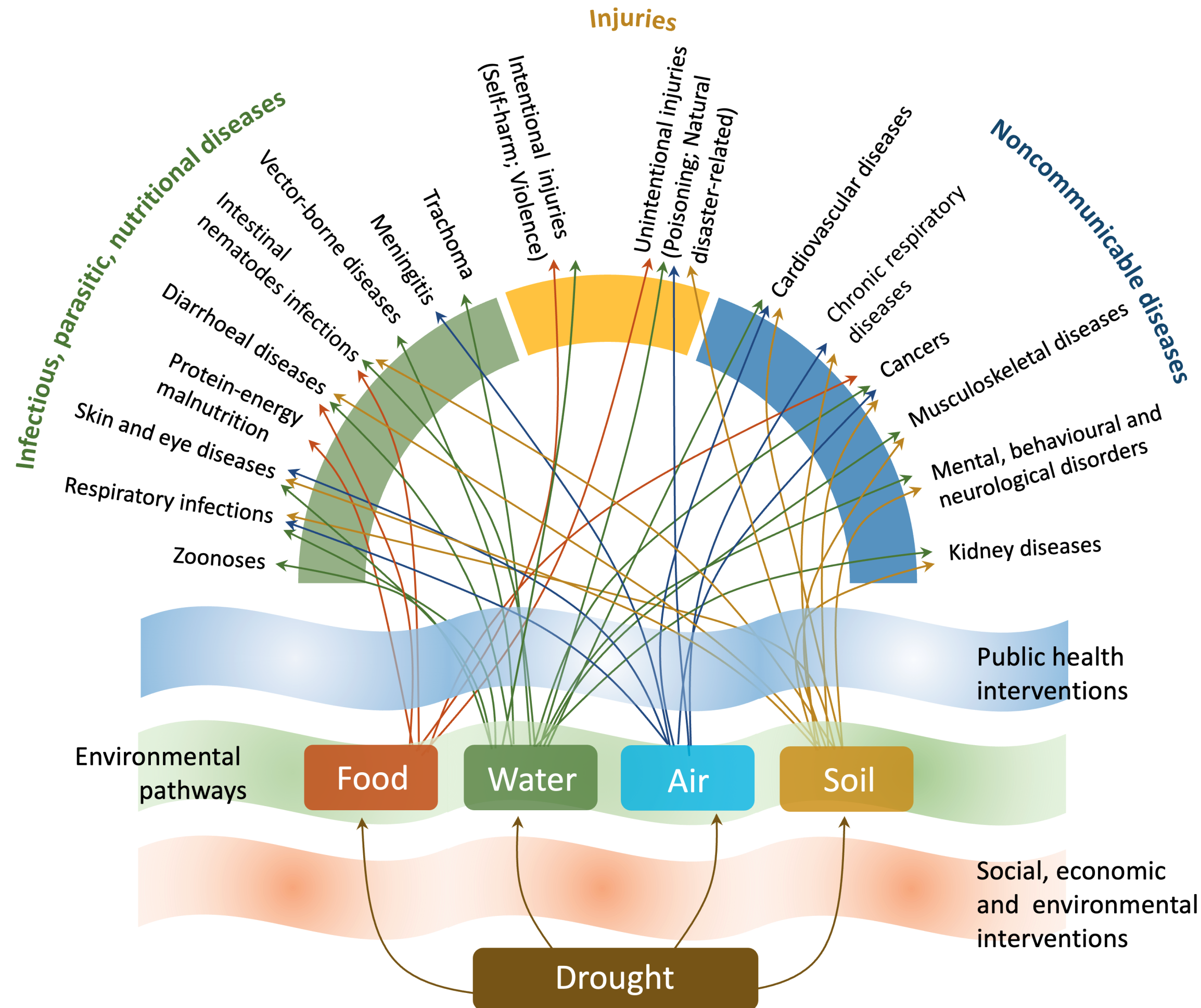
[Learn more →](#)



Drought global pressures, impacts and responses



Drought and health complex pathways



The UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework



United Nations

ICCD/COP(13)/L.18



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

Distr.: Limited
14 September 2017

Original: English

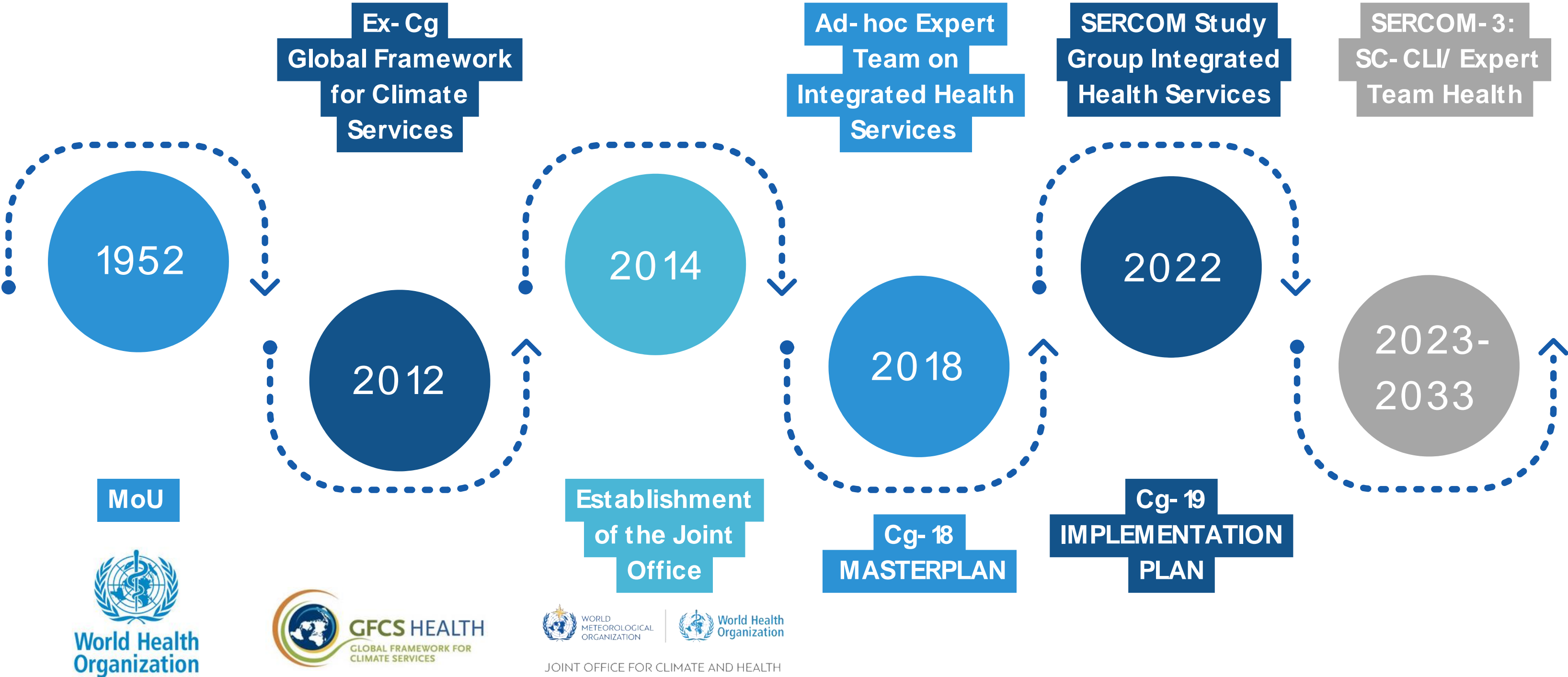
Strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations

- *Expected impact 2.1* Food security and adequate access to water for people in affected areas is improved
- *Expected impact 2.2* The livelihoods of people in affected areas are improved and diversified
- *Expected impact 2.3* Local people, especially women and youth, are empowered and participate in decision-making processes in combating DLDD
- *Expected impact 2.4* Migration forced by desertification and land degradation is substantially reduced.

Strategic objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems

- *Expected impact 3.1* Ecosystems' vulnerability to drought is reduced, including through sustainable land and water management practices
- *Expected impact 3.2* Communities' resilience to drought is increased.

70 years of WMO- WHO Collaboration



Opportunities for *increased uptake of climate-informed health nexus* at country level

Evolution of ATACH with growing attention on CCH

84 Countries
70 Partners
5 Working Groups

2021



UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

COP26

UK establishes COP26 Health Programme raising ambition on Climate-Resilient and Low Carbon Sustainable Health Systems.



Nov. 2022



COP27
SHARM EL-SHEIKH
EGYPT 2022



COP27

Egypt as COP27 Presidency launches Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN). I-CAN integrated into ATACH.



2024



WHA 77

77th World Health Assembly Climate change and health resolution (ATACH referenced)



ATACH
Alliance for Transformative
Action on Climate and Health
WHO hosted network

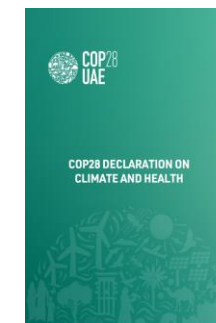
ATACH formed

ATACH is formed to support country-level and global delivery of climate resilient and low-carbon health systems.

June 2022



COP28
UAE



COP28

COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate Change and Health endorsed by 151 Member States. ATACH referenced in declaration as a key collaboration initiative.

2023

WHO's climate change and health work is highly relevant to the Health Treats from Drought





Thank you!