





HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS HUMAN HEALTH



Direct impacts

INJURIES, DISEASE AND DEATHS DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS:




-  • Increased frequency and intensity of heat waves. Excess heat-related mortality and incidence of heat exhaustion
-  • Aggravated circulatory, cardiovascular, respiratory and kidney diseases.
-  • Indigenous and traditional peoples are also expected to suffer the most
-  • Health losses caused by disasters such as storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods

Indirect impacts through natural systems


AIRWAYS DISEASES AND ALLERGENS:

-  • Diseases such as asthma and allergic respiratory diseases are exacerbated by exposure to aeroallergens
-  • Increased cardiopulmonary mortality due to high particulate matter and atmosphere levels of highly toxic ozone

FOOD-AND-WATER BORNE DISEASE:




-  • It is projected an increase of an 8-11% in the risk of diarrhea in the tropics and subtropics in 2039
-  • Accelerated microbial growth, survival, persistence and transmission of pathogens
-  • Shifting geographic and seasonal distributions of e.g cholera, schistosomiasis, and harmful algal blooms

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES:



-  • A warmer climate will increase the reproduction rate, resilience and distribution of the vector-borne diseases. For malaria, recent estimates projected that the additional number of people at risk of infection due to year-round transmission in South America will rise from 25 million by year 2020 to 50 million by 2080

Indirect impacts through socio-economic systems


FOOD AND WATER INSECURITY AND UNDERNUTRITION:

-  • Increased risk of undernutrition resulting from lower food production (especially in the tropics) and food access
-  • Combined effects of undernutrition and infectious diseases
-  • Chronic effects of stunting and wasting in children

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS:

-  • Risk of heat exhaustion, cardiac arrest and more frequent work accidents for outdoor and unprotected workers. Loss of work capacity and reduce labor productivity are also expected
-  • The elders, children, and people living in poor environments, and indigenous and traditional populations, are expected to suffer the most

FORCED DISPLACEMENTS, MENTAL ILLNESS AND STRESS:

-  • Increase of stress on all those who are already mentally ill, create sufficient stress for some who are not yet ill to become so such as severe anxiety reactions, depression, aggression, and complex psychopathology; sense of loss

Health is influenced by climate and weather in many ways, and for several reasons it is difficult to anticipate all the impacts.