

Climate change and health in Africa

Concept note on blog series

Climate crisis in the African region: what are the current strategies for mitigating the negative impacts of climate change on health systems?

The African Health Observatory – Platform on Health Systems and Policies (AHOP) is seeking to commission a blog series on climate change and health in Africa to supplement an upcoming policy brief on the subject.

Policy Brief Summary

AHOP is set to publish a policy brief on existing policies, frameworks, and strategies in Africa that mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on health systems. The policy brief summarises evidence on how climate change is affecting African health systems and assesses the strategies currently in place to mitigate these negative impacts. The brief synthesises evidence from peer-reviewed journal articles, grey literature (including Ministry of Health reports and strategic documentation from international organisations) and regional climate change and health experts. It aims to support decision-makers and institutions in developing and implementing policies that promote public health and protect health systems from the adverse effects of climate change.

Blog Concept and Requirements

The blog should respond to three questions:

- How is climate change affecting population health and health systems in the target country?
- What are the existing policies and strategies in place for reducing the negative impacts of climate change on health systems at a national and/or sub-national level in Africa?
- What lessons can be learned from existing policies about how to design and implement climate and health policies in the African region?

We welcome submissions on national or sub-national (e.g. state, provincial) policies, frameworks and strategies from countries within the [WHO African region](#). The link between climate change and health systems should be clearly identified in the submission.

By providing accessible, concise analyses on climate change and health policies in several African countries, the blog series will help AHOP to further discussion on the topic amongst a wide range of readers including non-specialists, students, researchers, and policymakers.

Further details on the requirements for the blog, including the title, word count and writing style, can be found in the accompanying AHOP Blog Guidelines (see Annex 1).

Audience

The target audiences for this blog series are:

Policymakers: African ministers and civil servants working on climate, health and related policies.

Regional and international organisations: Subject experts in regional and international organisations such as the WHO Regional Office for Africa, African Union, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Academia: Researchers on policies related to health systems and climate change, particularly in Africa. Students studying climate policies, health systems or development.

Civil society groups: Health charities, advocacy groups and activists campaigning to tackle the negative impacts of climate change on health outcomes in Africa.

Media: Journalists reporting on climate change and/or health systems.

AHOP partners: National Centres, WHO Regional Office for Africa, London School of Economics and Political Science, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, European Health Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, Asia Pacific Health Observatory on Health System and Policies.

Submission, Review and Publication Process

If you are interested in contributing to the blog series, please submit:

- A 250-word blog outline
- A CV

To submit your outline and CV, [use our blog submission form](#). Submissions are open to all.

Date	Event
2 August	Deadline for 250-word outline
w/c 5 August	Contact with approved authors
30 August	Final writing deadline
w/c 2 September	Review and feedback week

AHOP will review your outline. It will be judged on relevance to this brief, clarity of concept, originality, use of evidence and quality of writing. If appropriate for the blog series, we will contact you to discuss your idea in more detail and establish a timeline for the drafting process.

The draft blog will be reviewed by the AHOP blog editing team to check factual accuracy, links and readability, and peer reviewed by a colleague/s with relevant expertise drawn from across the AHOP partnership.

Selected blogs will be published on the AHOP blog and promoted across all AHOP platforms. All contributing authors will be named. We will also seek opportunities to cross-publish the blogs on other platforms via AHOP partners or relevant third-party organisations.

[Visit the AHOP blog](#) to find previous examples of our blog content.

If you have any questions, please contact ahop@lse.ac.uk.

Annex 1: AHOP Blog Writing Guidelines

The title will be short and engaging in order to facilitate easy sharing via social media platforms such as Twitter. If necessary, a subtitle can be added.

Key message: Authors are asked to provide a 1-2 sentence summary of the blog's key messages to facilitate and inform wider sharing and communications.

The length of the piece submitted should be around 800 words (and no more than 1000 words).

The writing must always have the reader in mind first and foremost, trying to capture the reader's attention, acknowledging that you must give the reader the most pertinent information early on in the piece. It should be written accessibly, with a relatively wide audience in mind, including non-academics. Short sentences and paragraphs and avoiding jargon and acronyms are encouraged. Key words to be used in the article should be found within the first two paragraphs, especially the first, which will help improve the article's search optimization on search engines.

The content of the piece should include background, context, a focussed narrative covering a limited number of key points and a clear conclusion outlining what can be learned from the policy. It should aim to leave the reader with a better understanding of the issues.

The analysis should be **evidence-led**, using quality, trustworthy sources of information. Any references should be included as hyperlinks instead of citations or references. Please provide the raw excel data for any charts or graphs to be included.

The outline of the piece to be submitted to the editorial group should consist of an indicative title, and one paragraph description of the subject of the blog article (questions, topic, messages, and themes to be explored).

The author should submit a short biography and profile photo to accompany the blog. Please include your place of work, position and qualifications.