



## IMPLEMENTATION LAB

### Climate & Health: Extreme Climate Events and Waste Impact on Health

#### Concept Note

Version: 21 April 2026

Thursday, 23 April 2026 | 16:00 – 18:00 (KST) | Room: Seminar Room 4

#### Background and Scope

At 2026 UNFCCC Climate Week 3 (CW3), Implementation Labs, as part of the Implementation Forum, are designed as hands-on, solution-oriented sessions focused on implementation bottlenecks and tested solutions for scaling implementation, convening non-Party stakeholders (NPS), including private sectors, civil society, and subnational entities as well as policy makers to discuss enablers and barriers to escalating solutions from perspectives of each stakeholder groups. Topics of the Implementation Labs correspond to the six axes of the Global Climate Action Agenda in alignment with the first GST outcome.

The World Health Organization has called climate change the single biggest health threat facing humanity. Extreme climate events such as heatwaves, floods, and storms increasingly disrupt environmental and public health systems, from waste management to sanitation and water supply systems, increasing the risk of environmental contamination and disease outbreaks. These disproportionately impact women, children and vulnerable communities, with cascading risks and intensifying social inequities. This highlights the need to anticipate, manage, and reduce health risks linked to extreme climate events, by building and strengthening climate-resilient health systems and community response.

Building on the 1st GST outcome which calls for attaining resilience against climate-related health impacts, and the [Belém Health Action Plan](#) and [Beat the Heat](#) launched at COP 30 as Plans to Accelerate Solutions under the GCAA to promote resilient health systems in the face of the climate crisis, this Implementation Lab aims to identify the interlinkages of extreme climate events and public health system resilience, the implementation bottlenecks to climate-resilient health responses, and to collaboratively unlock scalable solutions with policymakers, subnational entities, civil society, private sector, and finance stakeholders.

#### Objectives

- Diagnose implementation bottlenecks in building and sustaining climate-resilient health responses, with particular attention to waste management and environmental health services disrupted by extreme climate events;
- Surface scalable solutions that strengthen resilience of health systems and community responses to climate shocks;
- Connect implementers with investors to unlock financing for climate-resilient health infrastructure.

#### Preliminary Agenda

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16:00-	<a href="#">1. Welcome and Introduction</a>
16:05	<b>Moderator: Dr. Elizabeth Bennett</b> , WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health

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16:05-	<a href="#">2. Opening Remarks</a>
16:10	

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**Mr. Samed Ağırbaş**, COP 31 Climate High-Level Champion, Turkiye & President of the Zero Waste Foundation

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16:10- 2. **Pulse Check: Identifying implementation challenges**

16:15 Mentimeter interactive activity

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16:15- 3. **Panel Discussion: Lessons from the Frontline of Extreme Climate Events and Public Health**

16:45

- **Moderator: Dr. Elizabeth Bennett**, WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health
  - **Dr. Agnes Soares da Silva**, Director, Department of Environmental Health and Occupational Health Surveillance, Ministry of Health of Brazil
  - **Ms. Tiffany Chanelle van Ravenswaay**, Climate Advisor, Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS)
  - **Dr. Emma Campbell**, Executive Director, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Korea
  - **Ms. Michaela Schrodt**, Climate & Health Implementation and Science Lead, Bayer AG
  - **Mr. Ikbal Alexander**, Expert in Waste Management & Climate Change
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16:45- 4. **Implementation Unlocking – Strengthening Climate-Resilient Health Systems**

17:30

Exploring root causes of priority bottlenecks and examining proven solutions and collaboratively identifying the specific enabling conditions needed to scale implementation.

There are three breakouts in which participants self-select:

- Health, Science, Technology & Waste Systems

**Facilitator: Michaela Schrodt, Climate & Health Implementation and Science Lead**

- o *How can climate and health surveillance systems, including early warning systems for extreme heat events, better integrate gender-disaggregated data to reach the most vulnerable?*
- o *Which technologies or innovations (e.g. waste, sanitation, health systems) are delivering results, and why?*
- o *What are good practices in decarbonizing health infrastructure?*

- Regional and National Policies, Regulation & Governance

**Facilitator: Wiebke Bender, UN Climate Change**

- o *What are good examples of policy changes that turn health commitments in NDCs and NAPs into funded action?*
- o *What governance mechanisms have successfully integrated climate-health resilience across sectors - environment, finance, health, and urban planning - and what made them work?*
- o *How can national and regional frameworks better reflect the disproportionate health impacts on women and vulnerable communities, moving beyond recognition to enforceable standards and accountability?*

- Local Delivery, Local Governance and Community, Capacity & Skills

**Facilitator: Ikbal Alexander, Expert in Waste Management & Climate Change**

- o *What has worked in strengthening the capacity of health workers and community actors from responding effectively to extreme climate events?*
  - o *What are examples and good practices of community participation in climate-resilient health system design? How are they financed and supported by institutions?*
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- o How can community-led approaches — including indigenous knowledge, local health networks, and women-led initiatives — be formally recognized and resourced within national health adaptation frameworks?*

In the final 10 minutes, each group will identify two key takeaways to briefly share with the plenary.

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17:30- [6. Closing and Next Steps](#)

17:35 Presenting concise implementation insights and next steps, with a synthesis of cross-cutting messages to inform Climate Week outcomes and COP 31 discussions

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