# Key findings of the 2023 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change

Lack of action to avoid or adapt to climate change thus far has left us exposed to health harms.



Climate change is making health-threatening

temperatures increasingly frequent

Population-weighted days of exposure to days of life-threatening temperatures per year

### Days made twice as probable due to climate change Total days observed



(1) Without human-caused climate change we would have expected people to have experienced close to 60 days of lifethreatening temperatures each year.

- The average number of days in which (2) people experienced health-threatening temperatures has rapidly grown over the past two decades.
- Between 2018 and 2022 the (3) average was 86.
- 60% of these days are now twice as (4) probable due to climate change.

Heat-related deaths of people older than 65 years have increased by 85% from **1990–2000,** above the 38% increase expected if temperatures had not changed.



### Extreme weather events are are making millions food insecure

Higher frequency of heatwaves and droughts in 2021 was associated with 127 million more people experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity compared with 1981–2010.

Percentage point change\* in reported moderate-to-severe food insecurity due to...



population experiencing food insecurity



### The pressure on health systems is rapidly growing

27% of surveyed cities declared concerns over their health systems being overwhelmed by climate change impacts.



490 billion potential hours of labour were lost in 2022 due to heat exposure

### Global potential work hours lost

500 billion hours





Transmission of life-threatening infectious diseases is rising

The changing global climate is becoming increasingly suitable for the transmission of many life-threatening infectious diseases, making control efforts more and more challenging and costly.

### Change in climatic suitability, 1951–60 to 2013–22





\$

\$400 bn

200

0

2010

Dengue by Ae albopictus +27·7%

2022

Losses due to extreme weather

events have increased by 23%

In 2022, extreme weather events caused

US\$264 billion of losses globally.

International climate pledges are not being met

Of the **64 countries** that committed to building climate-resilient health systems through the COP26 Health Programme...



Just 11 countries have completed a vulnerability and adaptation assessment\*:





The health threats experienced to date are an early symptom of the dangers our future might hold. New projections reveal an intolerable future with rapidly growing hazards.



Despite continued warnings of the risks, and regardless of agreed targets to limit temperature rise, the world is accelerating in the wrong direction.



HDI=Human Development Index



### Production above 1.5°C benchmark



Strategies of the world's largest oil and gas companies now put them on course to emit 173% of the carbon emissions needed to limit temperature rises to 1.5°C, up from 112% in 2022.

### Carbon emmissions, % of levels compatible with limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C



\* Thin lines show data for the nine largest publicly listed international oil and gas companies by production volume, thick line shows their average; † Thin lines show data for the 11 largest state-owned national oil and gas companies by production volume, thick line shows their average.



Average annual lending to the fossil fuel sector grew from \$549 billion in 2010–16, to \$572 billion in 2017–21.

Of the 40 banks that lend most to the fossil fuel sector, more than half have increased lending to the sector since the Paris Agreement was signed:

### Percentage change in fossil fuel lending, 2017-21 vs 2010-16



## For all the negatives, there are still positive signals of progress, and opportunities to deliver a healthy, thriving future for people all around the world.

**Global investment in clean energy** greatly exceeds fossil fuels, and lending has almost reached parity

In 2022, global clean energy investment grew 15%, to US\$1.6 trillion, exceeding global fossil fuel investment by 61%:

### Investment, global total



Lending to the green energy sector rose to US\$498 billion in 2021, approaching fossil fuel lending:

### Lending, global total





### Global deaths attributable to human-caused air pollution





Transitioning away from fossil fuels and to renewable energy, while increasing energy efficiency, can **support energy** poverty reduction and deliver energy to off-grid areas.

The renewable energy sector grew to a historical high of 12.7 million employees globally in 2021

### Global employees in the renewable energy sector

12 million



In 2022, renewable energy accounted for 90% of the

Building upon the progress already made, the Commission makes recommendations to maximise the benefits of climate change action for people's health and wellbeing:



Accelerate the phasing out of fossil fuels, prioritising interventions with health co-benefits in the energy sector and food system

- >> Promote a health-centred energy transition that maximises health gains; ban and cease funding to all new oil and gas projects
- Reduce the health harms of energy poverty by supporting a just zero-carbon transition
- Accelerate mitigation in food systems through support for, and promotion of, healthier, low-carbon diets



### Promote leadership from the health sector by delivering health-promoting climate change action

- >> Deliver public health programmes that simultaneously improve public health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- >> Lead by example by building sustainable, efficient, and zero emission health systems in alignment with the ambitions of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) Heath Programme



### Increase resources and support to continue expanding the knowledge base, understanding, and engagement of key actors in health and climate change

- >> Strengthen global capacity for health and climate change research and knowledge generation
- >> Increase support to maintain and strengthen monitoring of health and climate change at global, regional, and national levels



### Transform financial systems to support a healthy, sustainable future

- >> Increase climate finance to promote a healthy, just transition, including through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s financial mechanisms and funding provided by multilateral development banks
- >> Rapidly phase out all subsidies for, lending to, and investment in oil and gas companies, including their exploration and extraction activities



The 2023 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change

Read the full report at www.thelancet.com

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# THE LANCET

Accelerate climate change

>> Accelerate the development of climate-

with the COP26 Health Programme

systems to prepare for, and respond

to, climate-related health risks

>> Increase the capacity of health

resilient health systems, in agreement

adaptation for health

