
Foreword

Since its foundation in 1993, and especially since 2016 when three academy networks were merged into the single InterAcademy Partnership, IAP has developed a track record of providing credible, independent science-based recommendations to policymakers.

From 2015, with the launch of a project on ‘Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture’ (FNSA), we have followed a methodology that includes regional reports on the topic under consideration each prepared by one of the four IAP Regional Networks (AASSA for Asia and Oceania, EASAC for Europe, IANAS for the Americas, and NASAC for Africa). Key findings from the four regional reports are then collated into a global synthesis.

This same methodology was used for IAP’s second major regional-to-global project, this time on ‘Climate Change and Health’ (CCH), which ran from 2019 to 2022, when the global synthesis¹ was launched. Just as the FNSA project gained traction in international policy discussions – IAP and its Regional Networks were asked to contribute to the UN Secretary General’s 2021 Food Systems Summit – so the IAP CCH project has helped raise awareness of the health co-benefits of tackling climate change. Indeed, the co-chair of the project (with Volker ter Meulen, former IAP co-president, Germany) Sir Andrew Haines (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and co-Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating

1 <https://www.interacademies.org/publication/health-climate-emergency-global-perspective>

Centre on Climate Change Health and Sustainable Development), has claimed that, at the start of the project governments were not aware of the strong interlinkages between climate change and health. For the first time, at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change that took place in Dubai in November and December 2023, there was a dedicated ‘Health Day’ that focused on this nexus. This new awareness can be partly attributed to the success of the IAP project, which had been presented at COP26 and COP27.

Other organisations, too, have been urging action on this nexus – among them Save the Children (SC), which also in 2022 developed its organization-wide ‘Climate and Health Strategy: Accelerating action on climate with health benefits’², which takes a multisectoral, systems-based approach to address climate, health and equity together. SC envisions a future where all children learn, survive, and are protected and can grow up to reach their full potential. To achieve this vision, SC is tackling the mutually reinforcing issues of climate change, health and inequity by taking actions to: (1) improve understanding of the multi-sectoral impacts of, and interconnections between, human activities, climate change and health; (2) foster community action to test, evaluate and scale up interventions with climate, health and equity benefits; and (3) support systematic and meaningful inclusion of children, adolescents, women and other disadvantaged groups in climate action for health.

It made sense, therefore, for Save the Children and IAP – two global organisations with the capacity to work regionally and nationally – to work together to build on these beginnings and develop a product that, we believe, will be useful in persuading policymakers that multi-sectoral, systems-based studies can provide solid evidence to directly inform their decision-making.

This is what we have attempted to do in this project. We received more than 80 proposals to our call for examples of case studies of approaches to problem-solving and policies, used to address the interlinked challenges of climate and health. Thanks to our expert review panel, these were whittled down to the 14 case studies that are presented in this book. The authors of the case studies attended a workshop in Trieste, Italy, in September 2023, where they shared their experiences with one another and a sub-set of our expert panel. Since then, each case study has been edited into

2 <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/save-the-childrens-climate-and-health-strategy-accelerating-action-on-climate-with-health-benefits-executive-summary/>

a non-technical version, making it accessible to a wider audience, and published in this volume. The book will be distributed free of charge and also made available online³. By providing such a collection of case studies, it is hoped that countries, whether low-, middle- or high-income, will be able to identify appropriate examples of the multisectoral, systems-based approach to study design, partnering and implementation, and adapt them to their own particular national challenges.

As a global society, we need to act as quickly as possible to adapt to and mitigate climate change. These studies show that appropriate action can be taken and that, by taking a holistic view of the issue, health benefits can be attained (or at least negative impacts on health can be avoided) through actions to address climate change. We sincerely hope that they can be used as positive examples for others to follow, replicate, amplify and scale up.

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³ <https://www.interacademies.org/publication/climate-change-adaptation-health-book-case-studies>