

**Joint Learning Network for Universal Health Coverage
Collaborative on Climate-Smart Health Systems
Call for Expressions of Interest
September 2023**

The [Joint Learning Network for Universal Health Coverage \(JLN\)](#) brings its network members from thirty-six countries around the world together for productive and high-impact practitioner-to-practitioner exchanges on a variety of health systems topics. The World Bank and the JLN Network Manager team are pleased to invite Expressions of Interest from interested JLN countries to participate in a new Collaborative focused on Climate Smart Health Systems.

Description of topic

Building climate-smart healthcare systems that can mitigate and address the impacts of climate change has become increasingly important as climate shocks continue to threaten health outcomes and stall progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). A [recent report](#) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects an excess of 250,000 deaths per year attributable to climate change by 2050 as a result of heat, undernutrition, malaria, and diarrheal disease.¹ Over half of this burden is projected to be in Africa. The World Bank's [Climate-Smart Healthcare report](#) aimed to help health planners and decision-makers in adjusting to current climate realities while improving health, environment, and development by providing tools for building low-carbon healthcare and addressing climate-related health impacts.² Most recently, the World Bank built on this work and further identified opportunities for synergistic responses to climate crises and the COVID-19 pandemic through a [series of case studies](#) that: 1) demonstrate the links between the pandemic, climate change, and health, and 2) provide a menu of interventions for climate-smart healthcare actions in response to the pandemic.³

It is increasingly recognized that the health sector should outline actions to build climate-resilient health systems that can anticipate, absorb, and transform in a changing climate to protect population health while improving the management of other health threats. Government counterparts have been increasingly articulating the challenge of accessing practical, implementation-related knowledge on what health sector can do about climate change. To contribute to the availability of such knowledge, the World Bank, USAID, and the JLN have partnered to propose the Climate-Smart Health Systems Collaborative, and we expect additional partners to join this effort in the near future. The Collaborative will foster peer-to-peer learning among JLN member countries and selected non-JLN countries. The endeavor is to make this

¹ IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, 3056 pp., doi:10.1017/9781009325844.

² Bouley, Timothy; Roschnik, Sonia; Karliner, Josh; Wilburn, Susan; Slotterback, Scott; Guenther, Robin; Orris, Peter; Kasper, Toby; Platzer, Barbara Louise; Torgeson, Kris. Climate-smart healthcare: low-carbon and resilience strategies for the health sector (English). Investing in climate change and health series Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/322251495434571418/Climate-smart-healthcare-low-carbon-and-resilience-strategies-for-the-health-sector>

³ Dorey, Stephen Geoffrey; Rabie, Tamer Samah; Gracheva, Maria E.. COVID-19 and Climate-Smart Health Care : Health Sector Opportunities for a Synergistic Response to the COVID-19 and Climate Crises (Vol. 3) : Executive Summary (English). Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/261081635223571363/Executive-Summary>

a unified, multi-partner effort that helps countries learn from each other about implementing changes that can make their healthcare systems climate-smart.

The proposed Collaborative on Climate Smart Health Systems will include virtual and in-person meetings over a period of 24 months. The Collaborative will start its activities by scoping topics prioritized by countries for pragmatic context-specific adaptation and mitigation solutions that help to build climate-smart healthcare systems and will galvanize support for the inclusion of climate mitigation and adaptation in the UHC agenda. The Collaborative will benefit from the domain expertise provided by the World Bank's Health, Nutrition, and Population Global Practice team and USAID's Global Health Bureau as well as technical inputs from other participating partners. With facilitation by experienced resource persons, the Collaborative will bring together a group of frontline practitioners and country representatives to exchange ideas to improve the design and implementation of climate-smart policy for healthcare through cross-country engagements.

Learning agenda

The learning agenda for this new Collaborative will be to help strengthen the capacity of JLN member governments by enabling policymakers to learn from each other through sharing of lessons and innovations, solving shared challenges, and co-producing knowledge on building climate-smart healthcare systems. Key indicators for learning will include:

1. Cases of member countries' self-reported learning about how other countries are addressing climate and health-related challenges,
2. Cases of member countries' self-reported learning about practical solutions they can implement,
3. Cases of self-reported motivation to advance climate and health-related technical objectives,
4. Knowledge products based on themes and scope prioritized by the members of the collaborative on climate-health smart systems accompanied by the relevant tools, and
5. Cases of self-reported connections developed with stakeholders who can serve critical roles in advancing climate-smart health systems.

Level of effort and duration

Activities under this Collaborative will work across the scoped priority topics of the participating countries around climate and health policies that countries are undertaking. The first phase will encompass 2-4 virtual knowledge exchanges and 1 in-person event in the first twelve months and additional virtual and in-person meetings over the following twelve-month period. The facilitation team and participants will jointly determine the timing of virtual meetings and in-person events. The learning exchanges will use a variety of learning modalities and discussions covering what it takes to build an effective and efficient climate-smart healthcare system from different perspectives, using the scoped thematic focus areas identified by the members of the Collaborative. The Collaborative is expected to hold its first virtual meeting in October 2023. Participants will be encouraged to attend all the sessions and to undertake any assigned pre-reading requiring an hour or less, prior to each virtual session, and will receive a more detailed briefing pack for their review and action prior to in-person meetings.

Anticipated outputs and outcomes

The following outputs and outcomes are envisaged from this learning program.

- Co-created knowledge products- at least one core knowledge product (KP) on a topic identified by the Collaborative.
- Other knowledge products, including toolkits and/or practical 'How-to' case studies on the priority thematic topics of the participating countries.
- Events co-located with major climate and health-related global meetings such as the United Nations Conference of Parties, and United Nations General Assembly, when feasible.

Participant profile

The Collaborative will be open to country participants who fit one of the following target profiles: Mid-career and senior government staff from Ministries of Health, Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Environment, Disaster Management agencies and any other government entities **who are decision-makers on climate policy and its health implications at the national or subnational level**. Collaborative members will be requested to identify individuals who are frontline practitioners working on climate and health during the expression of interest process. Acceptance of this EOI is strictly conditional on the proposed members meeting the above criteria, and their ability to continue participating in this collaborative over a 24-month period. Preference will be given to EOIs that have been sponsored at the country level by the respective World Bank/ USAID office.

How to submit an Expression of Interest

Country teams should respond with their Expression of Interest through ([HERE](#)) with the following information:

- Summarize how this topic is of relevance in the country's current UHC agenda,
- Briefly describe specific experiences, tools, or templates that the country can share with other countries,
- Identify four representatives who fit the participant profile description, (As and when in-meetings are organized, travel costs for up to two participants from among these 4 may be supported by the collaborative or in-country sponsor for in-person participation, while all participants are expected to participate in the virtual meetings),
- Indicate the organization each representative belongs to,
- Indicate sponsorship support from in-country partners including the local World Bank Country Office or local USAID Mission for travel expenses to attend the in-person event, where secured.

Selection Criteria

The Climate Smart Health Systems Collaborative aims to bring together a mix of about 10 countries for joint learning activities. Countries submitting expressions of interest will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria.

- Experience, lessons, and innovation that the country will be able to bring to the Collaborative.
- Country commitment to Climate Smart Health Systems
- Composition of the country team and its alignment with the suggested participant profile is a necessary prerequisite.

Please respond with your Expression of Interest by October 9th, 2023.