



Health and Climate Change Pre-Cop28 Symposium

Concept Note

Uganda

Building a low carbon, climate adaptive & resilient health system in Uganda

Uganda's climate has been changing over time, with the average temperature across the country rising and the frequency of hot days increasing. These changes in the climate have contributed to significant extreme weather events including increased frequency and intensity of droughts, floods, heatwaves, and landslides. Climate change has significant direct and indirect health implications for the Ugandan people and health system. Climate change has for example aggravated the occurrence of water-borne diseases such as dysentery, cholera, hepatitis E; vector-borne diseases especially malaria; respiratory diseases; and malnutrition-related illnesses further straining the health system.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, health systems are fragile, weak, and inadequately funded with less potential to contain shocks and stressors due to health emergencies and climate change as has been demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The health system should thus be climate-resilient that despite an unstable climate, it should 'anticipate, respond to, cope with, recover from and adapt to such shocks and stress, to bring sustained improvements in population health. The extent to which Uganda's health system has been able to accomplish these is unclear and neither have the lessons been documented to inform building future system capacity for response, adaptability, and resilience in Uganda and elsewhere.

In April 2022 (World Health Day) the World Health Organization in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Tree Adoption Uganda kickstarted activities aimed at building Climate resilience for healthcare facilities. This work has hitherto focused on nature-based solutions for health care facilities and health & climate capacity building through training of community health workers. To continue these efforts in the lead up to COP28, the Ministry of Health in partnership with the World Health Organization and Tree Adoption Uganda will convene a Health and climate stakeholders symposium to showcase evidence, initiatives, and solutions to building a low carbon, climate adaptive & resilient health system in Uganda.

A. Approach and purpose

High level symposium engaging health and climate stakeholders in preparations for COP 28 negotiations and process. During the symposium stakeholders will:

- Assess where the Health Sector is today in relation to climate change and health.
- Evaluate the Integration of Health in Uganda's National Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Review progress and preliminary findings on Uganda's vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment (VAA) and Health National Adaptation Plan.
- Showcase evidence, initiatives, and solutions to building a low carbon, climate adaptive & resilient health system in Uganda.
- Generate a position paper to guide Uganda's negotiations on health at the COP 28

B. Expected Results

- Assessment of Uganda's health position in health and climate change completed.
- Health workers' contribution to Uganda's climate change action plan effectively highlighted and mainstreamed the process for health in climate change for the identified actions established.
- Knowledge base, capacity and ownership on climate and health by stakeholders strengthened.
- Enhanced health focused and promoting targets for Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions

C. Stakeholders

Government	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Finance, Members of Parliament,	
United Nations Agencies	WHO, UNPD, UNICEF, UNFPA, Red Cross,	
CSO and INGOs	Tree Adoption Uganda Pathfinder Uganda AMREF Uganda Youth Advocacy and Development Network Uganda (YADNET) Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH)	Paving the Way to Better Health Through Innovation (PATH) National Population Council (NPC) Regenerate Africa Inter Religious Council Citizens Concern Africa (CICOA) Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (CHAI) Climate Action Network Uganda (CAN-U) Kampala Climate Cafe
Academia and Community	Makerere School of Public Health AirQo Africa Makerere University Lung Institute Makerere University Data Science Research training program (MakDARTA) Makerere University AI lab Citizens of Uganda,	
Partners	Margaret Pike Trust, Rockefeller	

D. Lay out of proposed activities.

1. High level stakeholder symposium

Agenda | November 14, 2023, | 09:00 – 17:30 | Kampala, Protea Elgon Terrace Hotel

08:30 AM **Arrival and Registration**

09:00 AM **Symposium Opening Remarks**

09:00-09:10	Dr. Charles Batte TAU	Climate change and Health in Uganda: Where the sector is today?
09:15-09:25	Margaret Athieno MWE	Focus Health: From the ACS The Road to COP 28
09:30-09:40	Dr. Atwine Diana MOH	Building of a low carbon, climate adaptive & resilient: Priorities for climate and health in Uganda
09:45-09:55	Dr. Yonas W. Tegegn WHO	Supporting the building of a low carbon, climate adaptive & resilient health system in Uganda

10:00AM **COP 28 | Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions**

10:00-10:10	Cecilia Alonyo MWE	Health in Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions
10:15-10:25	Didas Namanya MOH	Recap on Uganda's NAPA
10:30-10:40	John Bosco Isunju MakSPH	VAA: Progress and preliminary findings
09:45-11:15	Tom Sengalama UNDP	Financing low carbon, climate resilient health systems

11:15 AM **Tea Break**

Poster Viewing and Exhibitions

AirQo	Technologies for monitoring air pollution: Artificial intelligence and Machine Learning for improved health outcomes
-------	--

11:45 AM **Climate and Health Negotiations** **COP28 Health and Climate information paper**

Prof. John Kaddu Negotiator	Mainstreaming climate and health negotiations
Raymond Ruyokoka YADNET Carina Hirsch Margaret Pike Trust	[Thematic breakout sessions] Uganda's key messages and negotiating points at COP 28 Review of draft Health and climate change information paper or Uganda

01:00 PM **Lunch**

Lunch to be provided to meeting participants.

02:15 PM **Panel Discussion 1**

Hajra Mukasa | AMREF Uganda
Chido M. Cleopatra | AU
Jackson Chekweko | RHU

Hon. Lawrence Biyika | MP
Betty Kyaddondo | NPC

Capacity building for health workforce
The role of youth in building climate resilient health systems
Reproductive Health and Climate Adaptation: Interlinkages between SRHR/GE and CCA leveraging on GTA.
Health promoting and focused climate laws and policies.
Population growth and climate change

3:30 PM **Panel Discussion 2**

Charles Kabiswa | Regenerate Africa:

Dr. Christine Nabiryo | PATH
Ritah Wadimba | Pathfinder Uganda

Aaron Werikhe | MoFPED
Rawlance Ndejjo | CESH

Advancing and scaling family planning for climate change adaptation and resilience in Uganda.
Learnings from National Adaption Plans in the region
Building Climate Adaptive Health Systems in partnership with women, youth, and communities
Budgeting and financing low carbon, health resilient health systems
Health systems mitigation, adaptation, and resilience in the face of extreme weather events.

04:45 PM **Symposium Closing Remarks**

Dr. Herbert Nabaasa | MOH

05:15 PM **Departure**

2. Community engagement activities

i) **Community health workers' training on climate and health**

In many communities, community health workers are at the forefront of promoting health and well-being. These workers play a crucial role in educating people on environmental factors that can affect their health. They also help to monitor and report environmental hazards and promote healthy practices such as handwashing, waste management, and safe food practices. Community health workers need to be well equipped to deal with these issues. They need to have the necessary skills and knowledge to educate people on the health impacts of environmental factors. They need to be able to monitor and report environmental hazards to the relevant authorities. They also need to be able to respond to emergencies, such as natural disasters, and provide immediate healthcare services to affected individuals.

5 training workshops will be held at health facilities in Nakaseke District from November – December.

ii) Broadcasting of key messages via media

We will produce media, radio broadcasts and press releases to draw attention to the symposium planned activities and motivate the public to engage on health and climate matters. The intention is to engage a diverse array of stakeholders, including, policy makers, public authority representatives, the media, different industries, research organizations, civil society organizations and citizens.

E. Branding

All partner logos will be printed on all media and conference materials.