Climate Change and Human Health: From Threat to Opportunity

“Ensuring that the health of a child born today is not defined by a changing climate”
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Dr Nick Watts | Executive Director  @Watts_Nick
Health, Climate Change, and The Lancet

Lancet Countdown: Tracking Progress on Health and Climate Change
Lancet Countdown Partners
Health and climate change

"Tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century."

A Review by The Lancet

The Lancet Countdown: Tracking Progress on Health and Climate Change

The 2012 report of the Lancet Countdown: from 25 years of inaction to a global transformation for public health.

A Review by The Lancet

The 2018 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change

"The nature and scale of the response to climate change will be the determining factor in shaping the health of nations for centuries to come."

A Review by The Lancet

The 2019 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change

"An unprecedented challenge demands an unprecedented response, and it will take the work of the 7.5 billion people currently alive to ensure that the health of a child born today is not defined by a changing climate."

A Review by The Lancet
"The life of every child born today will be profoundly affected by climate change...

Without accelerated intervention, this new era will come to define the health of people at every stage of their lives."
Headline Finding:
A changing climate has seen global yield potential reduce by 2.9% for maize, 3.8% for winter wheat and 3.1% for soybean crops from 1988 to present day, with concerning implications for global undernutrition.
1.4.1: Climate Suitability for Infectious Disease Transmission

**Headline Finding:**
Vectorial capacity for the transmission of dengue was the 2nd highest on record in 2017, with 9 of the 10 most suitable years occurring since 2000.

The global average increase above the 1950s baseline was 7.2% for *Aedes aegypti* and 9.8% for *A. albopictus.*
1.2.1: Wildfires

Headline Finding:
152 out of 196 countries saw increases in populations exposed to wildfires from the early 2000s to present day. India alone experienced an annual daily population fire exposure increase of 21 million.
Headline Finding: 2018 saw 220 million additional vulnerable people exposed to extremes of heat.

Headline Finding: In 2018, 133 billion of potential work hours were lost due to rising temperatures – 45 billion hours more than in 2000.
"A second path—which limits the global average temperature rise to “well below 2°C”—is possible, and would transform the health of a child born today for the better, right the way through their life.”
“Whether or not we respond to climate change, is no longer a technical, economic, or financial question. It is now entirely a political one.”
Thank you

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