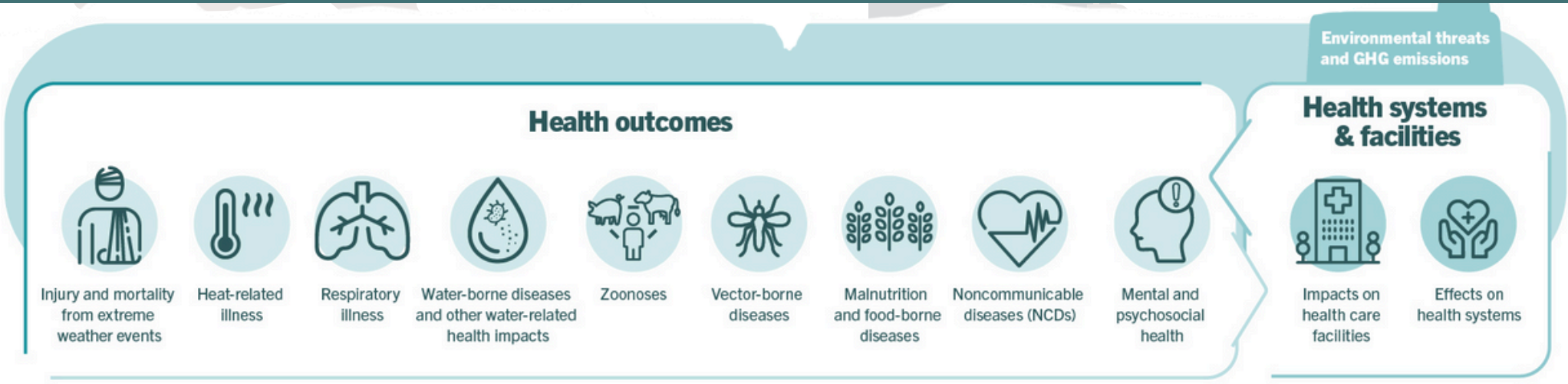
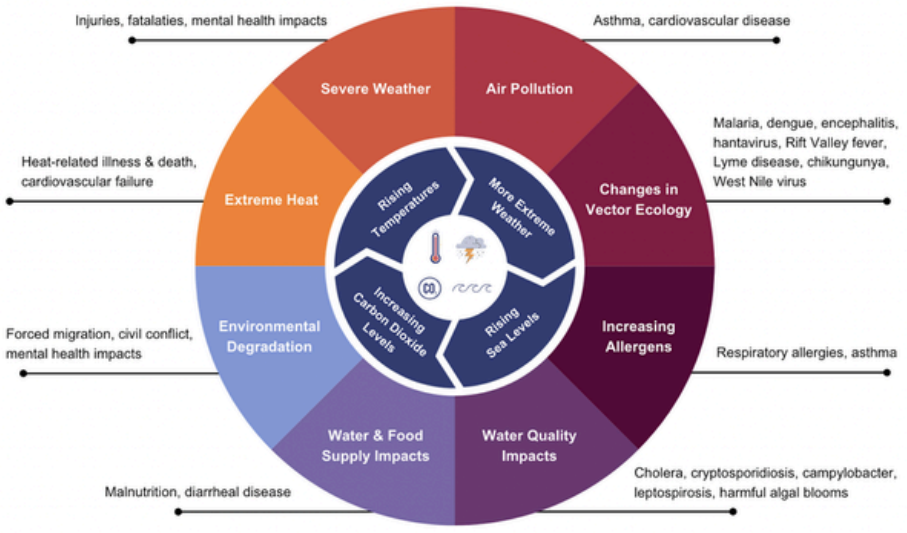
Climate Change and Human Health

Climate change is being recognized as a significant primary health hazard, which heightens heat pressure, respiratory diseases, infections, and food- and water-related health dangers. Warmer temperatures and severe weather conditions are currently subjecting millions of people to heat-related illness, malnutrition and climate-sensitive diseases, including dengue and malaria (IPCC, 2022; Romanello et al., 2022). The most at risk are vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, low-income populations, and people living in climate-prone areas. Stated simply, climate change is not only a crisis of the environment, but it is also an increasing health crisis on a global scale (WHO, 2023).

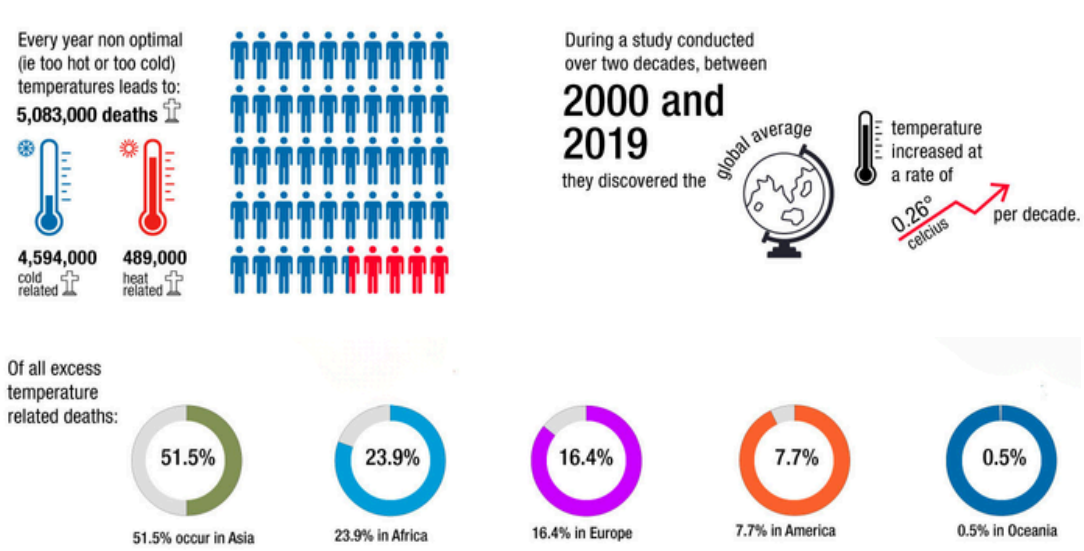


Pathway By Which Climate Change Affects Human Health:



Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention

World's largest study of global climate related mortality



Source: Zhao et al., (2021)

Heat Stress & Mortality:
As greenhouse gases trap more heat, global mean temperature has risen ~1.1°C above pre-industrial levels (IPCC, 2021). Heatwaves strain the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, increasing hospitalisations and deaths. Heat-related mortality in people over 65 has increased by ~70% since 2000 (WHO, 2023).

Infectious Disease Spread:
Warming climates expand mosquito habitats, altering disease transmission windows. Dengue and malaria suitability is increasing in Asia and Pacific regions (IPCC, 2021; WHO, 2023).

Mitigation and Adaptation

Cut greenhouse gas emissions by replacing fossil fuels with clean energy, sustainable transport, and climate-friendly food systems.

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Actions from the health sector

Health sector and health decision makers have to sit at the table whenever policy proposals and measures on climate change, energy, transport, agriculture etc. are negotiated and decided. Tackling social and health inequalities should be a priority.

Health professionals should get involved and speak up about the health effects of climate change and the opportunities for mitigation.

Source: HEAL (2019)

For reducing the health threat due to climate change, mitigation and adaptation actions should be adopted at various levels, which may bring some co-benefits.