

Climate Change and Health Risks

Health of the global environment is central to the sustained well-being of all life on Earth. Yet, climate change is a rapidly growing concern, causing unprecedented shifts in geographic, economic, social, and political priorities for action. For the health sector, there must be new interdisciplinary approaches to understanding such challenges and developing strategies for action. This session will explore how the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at The Aga Khan University (AKU), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), and partners in sustainable development can work with other global and local organisations to mount a programme of research, education, and coordinated action. The IGHD builds on the AKU's existing strengths in health sciences, seeking to catalyze collaborations across campuses and entities and extend the University's reach within the broader Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The Institute draws on a wide range of academic leaders and entities interested in engagement and collaboration around contemporary areas of interest. A core objective of the Institute is to promote cross-disciplinary research and programme development, while also actively marketing the University's capabilities to global partners.

This panel will:

1. Offer a global overview of the impact of climate change on the health of the world's most vulnerable populations, including changes to the nature of infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, agriculture, and food systems.
2. Present regional insights relating to Pakistan and East Africa based on the research findings of IGHD and its partners.
3. Build awareness among a wide audience of policymakers, sustainable development experts and advocates regarding the interaction between climate change and health outcomes.
4. Challenge leaders to think critically about the short- and long-term consequences of climate change on health and to prioritize action.

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