

A GLOBAL WARNING

In a year of historic elections, 9 out of 10 people want more investment in protection from health impacts of climate change

- New research reveals health impacts of climate change are at the top of citizens' concerns. 9 in 10 respondents from Brazil, France, India, Kenya and the US believe that more investment is needed to protect people from these effects.
- The greatest concern is in the Global South, where citizens in Brazil, Kenya, and India see climate change as a more significant threat than wars and geopolitical instability.
- Despite the urgency, less than 5% of climate adaptation finance targets projects that protect or improve health, prompting global experts to issue an open letter calling for swift action to "prevent lives being lost to the climate crisis."
- A new action report lays out crucial strategies to adapt to the health impacts of climate change, strengthen the resilience of healthcare systems and protect lives.

Tuesday, 24th September, New York: In the biggest election year in history, new research released today has signified a warning sign from global citizens to leaders. With 91% expressing concern about the health impacts of climate change and 9 in 10 wanting more investment to protect people from the health impacts of climate change, the message is clear: put the climate-health nexus at the forefront of finance priorities.

The results of the research commissioned by Foundation S, Sanofi's philanthropic organisation, of over 5,000 citizens from Brazil, France, India, Kenya and the US carry a global warning as leaders convene at the 79th UN General Assembly in New York.

- A staggering 82% believe world leaders are not doing enough to adapt to climate change's impacts. This rises in the Global South, where the impacts of climate change on health are currently highest (88% in Brazil, 83% in India and 82% in Kenya).
- Concern around how climate is impacting health is highest among younger generations (96% of 18-24 year olds vs. 78% of 65+ year olds).
- The majority of citizens (87%) think that future generations will have poorer health than current generations due to climate change.
- In Brazil (93%), India (95%), and Kenya (96%), concern about the health impacts of climate change is higher than concern about the effects of war, geopolitical instability, and global economic pressures, despite increasing war in Europe and the Middle East, and a potential economic crisis looming.

These results complement the release of a new report by the Collective MindS Climate x Health Council, led by Foundation S and the Africa-Europe Foundation. The report, published today, is a blueprint for action for world leaders coming out of the UN Summit of the Future, held on 22-23 September, to turbocharge sustainable development goals by bridging siloes in climate and health. In an effort to respond to citizen concerns and address funding gaps, the report outlines concrete steps on how to adapt to the health impacts of climate change, strengthen the resilience of healthcare systems and protect lives by facilitating rapid, flexible funding for locally led health adaptation.

Vanina Laurent-Ledru, Director General of Foundation S, said: *“Climate change is not just an environmental issue; it is a health crisis that affects us all. Our research highlights a clear demand from the global public for urgent action. We must prioritize investments in building healthcare systems that are both climate-proofed and resilient to protect the most vulnerable populations and ensure a resilient future for all. Now is the time for bold leadership and decisive action.”*

Paul Walton, Executive Director of the Africa-Europe Foundation, said *“People across our societies are the first to recognise how climate change is having profound impacts on health, economies and overall equity. Today, with the launch of our report, we are providing an operational blueprint for collective action that cuts across siloed sectors of cooperation, unlocks investment in health systems and – critically – protects the lives of the most vulnerable. As the report makes clear, the cost of inaction is greater than the cost of action.”*

With less than 5% of climate adaptation finance allocated to projects that protect or improve health, global experts have issued a rallying cry. In an open letter published earlier this week, representatives from the global health community - including H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, David Miliband, CEO of the International Rescue Committee, and Anil Soni, CEO of the World Health Organization Foundation – warned: *“The pace of this crisis is rapidly outrunning efforts to adapt. Over 3.5 billion people already live in areas highly vulnerable to climate change. We need immediate action to help them become more resilient – or we face dire consequences.”*

Omnia El Omrani, Health Envoy for COP28 and Former Youth Envoy for COP27 President said: *“Existing funding for climate adaptation falls short in addressing health needs, with less than 5% allocated to the health sector. Funding for climate-resilient and sustainable healthcare facilities—essential to responding to the mounting health impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable communities, who have contributed the least to the climate emergency—is urgently and equitably needed.”*

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- **Survey:** Omnisys surveyed 5,011 global adults (aged 18+) across the US (1,001), Brazil (1,003), France (1,000), India (1,004), and Kenya (1,003) between 9th July and 15th July 2024. The sample reflects the demographic make-up of online panels in these markets, in terms of age, gender and region. For more information on survey results, please visit: <https://omnisys.co.uk/poll-results/foundation-s-unga-research/>
- **Report:** For further information and to access the full report by the Collective MindS Climate & Health Council (and infographic), *From Risk to Resilience: Unlocking Climate and Health Finance for Local Health Adaptation*, please visit the Foundation S website [here](#). The report outlines 3 calls to action for the global community:
 1. Accelerate the breaking of siloes: 100% of developing countries work towards the UNFCCC goal of having their NAPs in place by 2025, with all new NAPs including specific health targets reflecting national and sub-national priorities.
 2. Strengthen efforts to bridge capacity gaps: 100% of global funding mechanisms have simplified/dedicated access channels and support programs for local project developers, and report increased funding for locally led health adaptation.
 3. Initiate the building of new funding channels: At least 5X more philanthropic funding is directed to locally led health adaptation within a broader effort to scale funding for climate-resilient health systems to 10% (from less than 2%).

- **Report Launch Event:** The report launch will be complemented by a public event on 25 September in New York, in partnership with Foreign Policy, Foundation S and the Africa-Europe Foundation. For more information and to register please do so [here](#).

About Foundation S

Foundation S, the philanthropic organization of Sanofi, aims to address urgent, global health challenges by empowering local communities and expanding access to care. With a focus on creating healthier futures for generations to come, Foundation S is committed to five key areas: childhood cancer, climate change and its impact on health, humanitarian aid & medicine donations (including medicines for rare diseases), and neglected tropical diseases (with a specific focus on sleeping sickness).

Foundation S operates as a “think and do tank.” Through its 2024 “think tank,” entitled the *Collective MindS Climate x Health Council*, Foundation S convened a distinguished group of global and local experts to identify solutions to accelerate finance for communities impacted by the devastating effects of climate change. Members of the Council serve as advisors and co-advocates in the movement to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on health and work together to mobilize critical resources to strengthen local health systems and community resilience in climate risk countries.

About the Africa-Europe Foundation

The Africa-Europe Foundation is an independent platform for multistakeholder dialogue, frank debate and strategic analysis bringing together experts and leaders from diverse organisation settings (civil society, policymaking, private sector, academia), to strengthen the partnership between Africa and Europe.

AEF multistakeholder Strategy and Working Groups offer a safe space for exchange on critical, sometimes contentious issues between Africa and Europe and form the backbone of AEF’s work to catalyse innovative partnerships and unlock untapped areas of cross-continental cooperation, from the future of health and the reform of financial systems to energy, agri-food and blue economy.

AEF’s AU-EU Tracker aims to complement existing efforts to monitor and facilitate the implementation of political and financial commitments of the cross-continental partnership; and through its strategic research and outreach programme AEF is reaffirming Africa-Europe relationship at the multilateral level. As a co-founder of The Collective MindS Climate x Health Council, AEF is dedicated to ensuring health is at a central pillar of a strengthened Africa-Europe partnership and mainstreamed as part of the global action on climate change.

About Collective MindS Climate x Health Council

[The Collective MindS Climate x Health Council](#) is a group of world-leading experts from industry, academia, civil society, philanthropy and government who are committed to improving global health through collective action.

The council published the “[Time to Adapt Action Report](#)” on the side-lines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 78) which focused on the urgent need to support and finance community led health adaptation solutions in climate vulnerable countries.

In 2024, The Collective MindS Climate x Health Council is focusing specifically on the implementation of the [Guiding Principles for Financing Climate & Health](#) Solutions and have worked to identify mechanisms that ensure funding for climate adaptation reaches communities most at risk and in need.