



## **Launch of Atlas of Health and Climate Video message**

**Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General  
World Health Organization**

The World Health Organization welcomes this atlas of health and climate as a unique tool for improving the response to a number of climate-sensitive diseases and health conditions.

These range from outbreak-prone diseases, like malaria, dengue, cholera, and epidemic meningitis, to floods, droughts, cyclones, heat stress, and diseases linked to air pollution and depletion of the ozone layer.

Climate and weather data, routinely collected from ground stations, balloons, aircraft, and satellites, add a new dimension of scientific evidence to health planning and proactive decision-making.

The numerous maps, tables, and graphs assembled in this atlas make the links between health and climate much more explicit.

When a climate dimension, such as trends in rainfall, humidity, and temperature, is mapped together with data on disease burdens, health officials can more readily locate the hotspots, the vulnerable populations, in time and space.

Climate and weather data also operate as an early warning system, sometimes facilitating the prediction of outbreaks, floods, or famine months in advance of the event.

This allow the health sector to step up preparedness measures and target interventions much more precisely.

In addition, the atlas shows how the relationship between health and climate is shaped by other vulnerabilities, such as those created by poverty, environmental degradation, and poor infrastructure, especially for water and sanitation.

Until now, climate services have been an underutilized resource for public health.

I join WMO's Secretary-General, Michel Jarraud, in expressing my conviction that publication of this atlas will mark a welcome turning point.

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