

Addressing the impact of climate change on WCAH: Emerging opportunities, including climate financing, for PMNCH action

PMNCH Board meeting - Item 4

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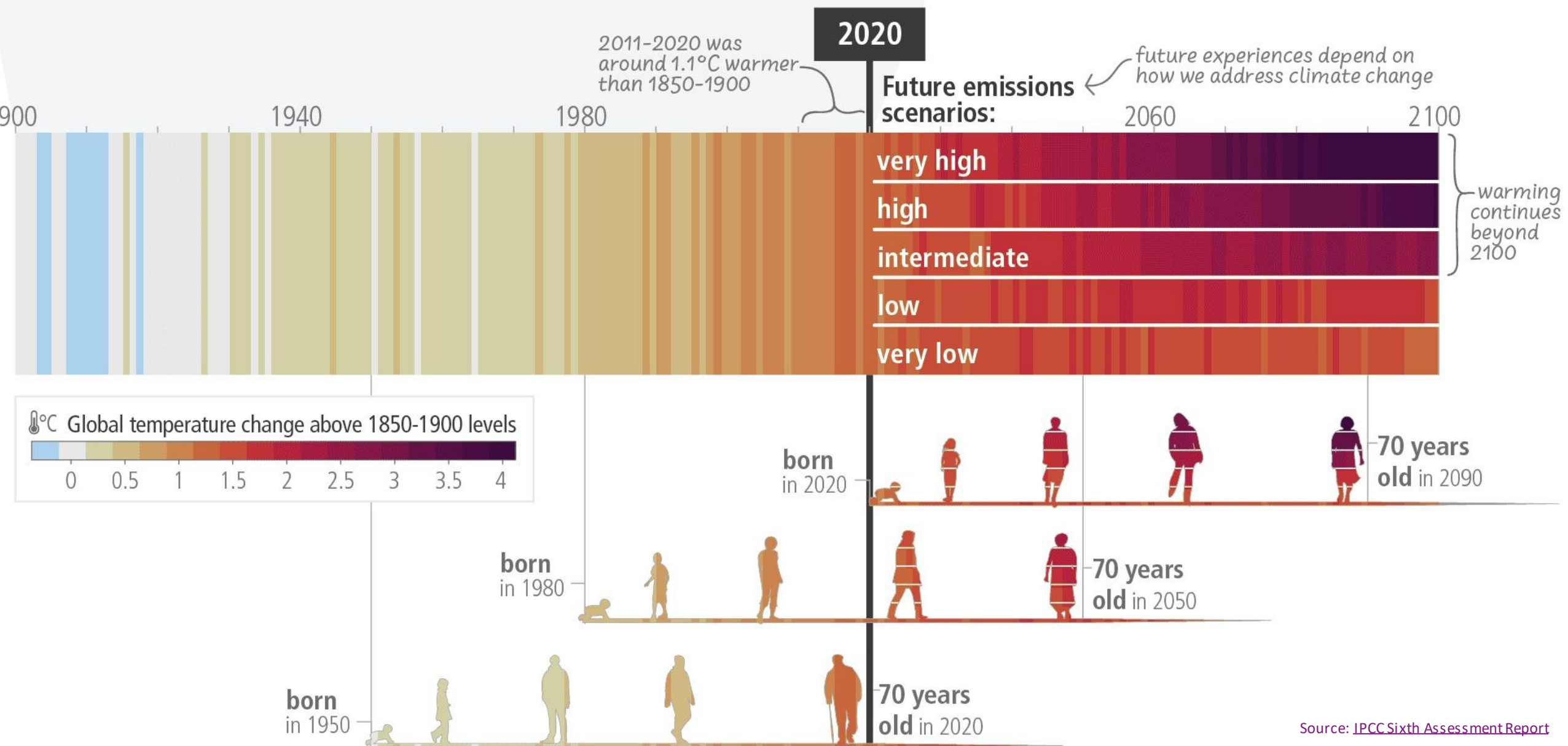
Aga Khan University and SickKids Hospital, Canada



*Climate change is now the biggest
global health threat and inter-
generational injustice of the 21st century*

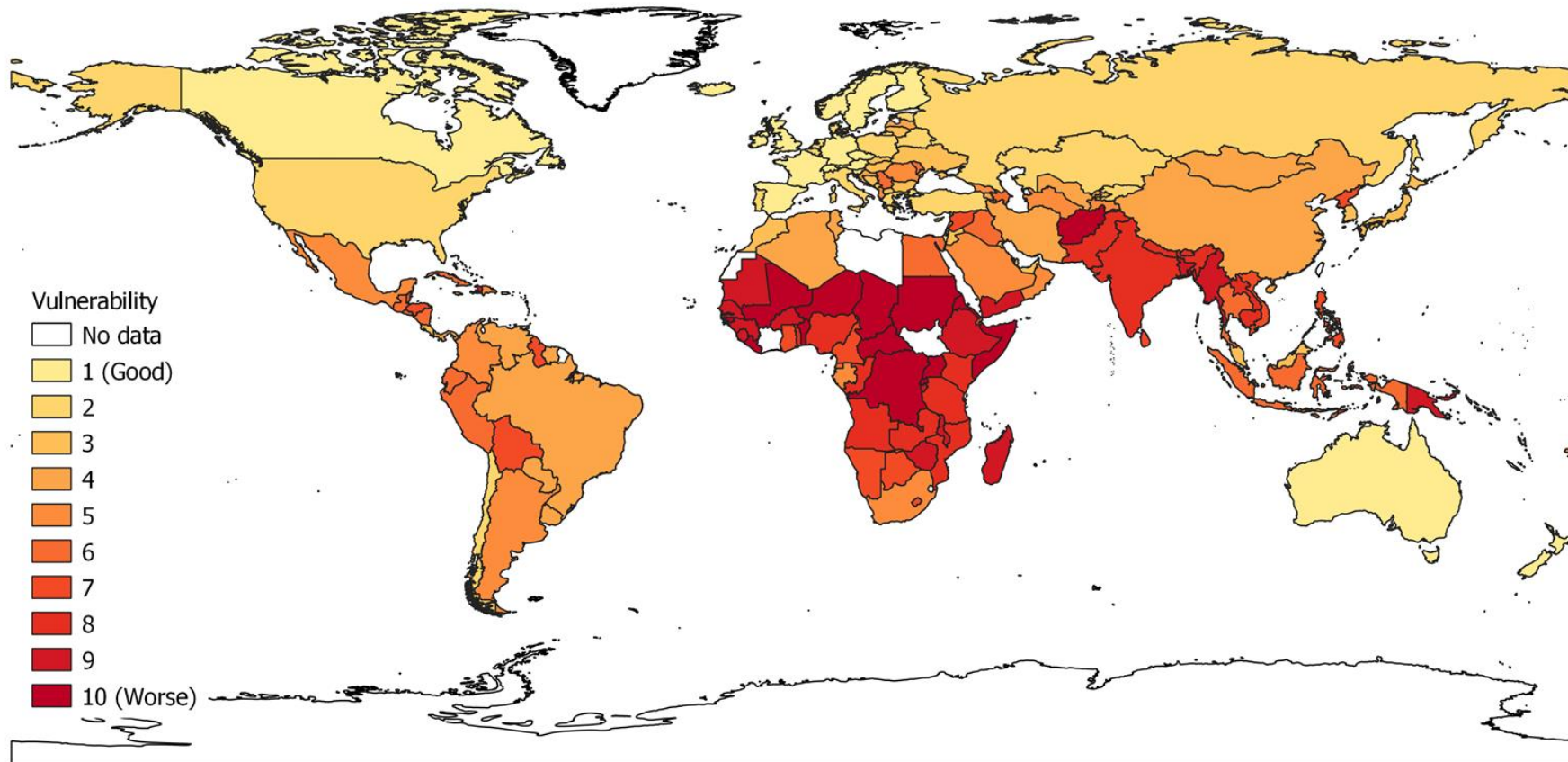


c) The extent to which current and future generations will experience a hotter and different world depends on choices now and in the near-term



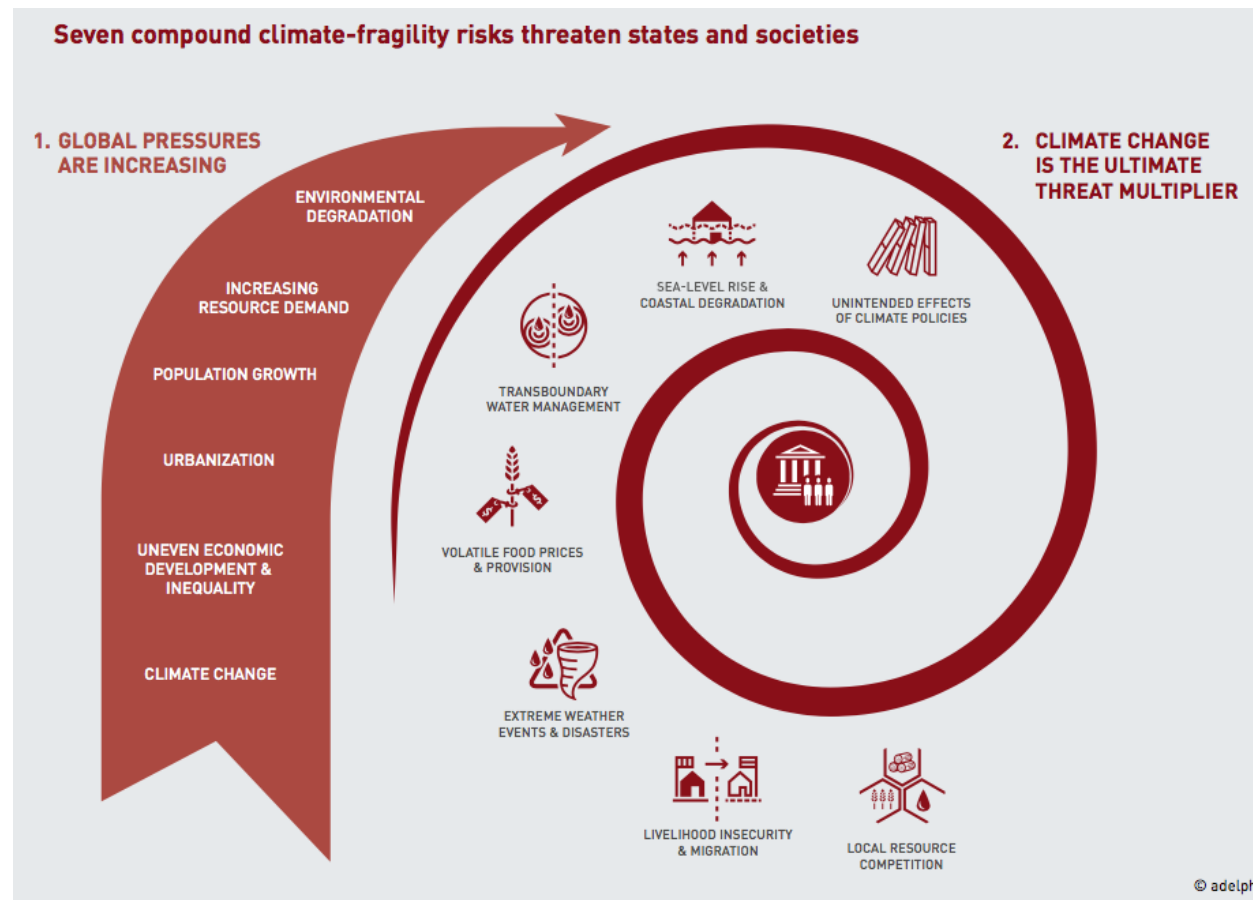
The Global Burden of Climate Change

Vulnerability



Propensity or predisposition of human societies to be negatively impacted by climate hazards.
Especially greater in LMIC contexts

Climate change is a **threat multiplier**, escalating social, political and economic tensions, particularly in LMICs, and fragile and conflict-affected settings



Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/climate-change-threat-multiplier-james-morris>



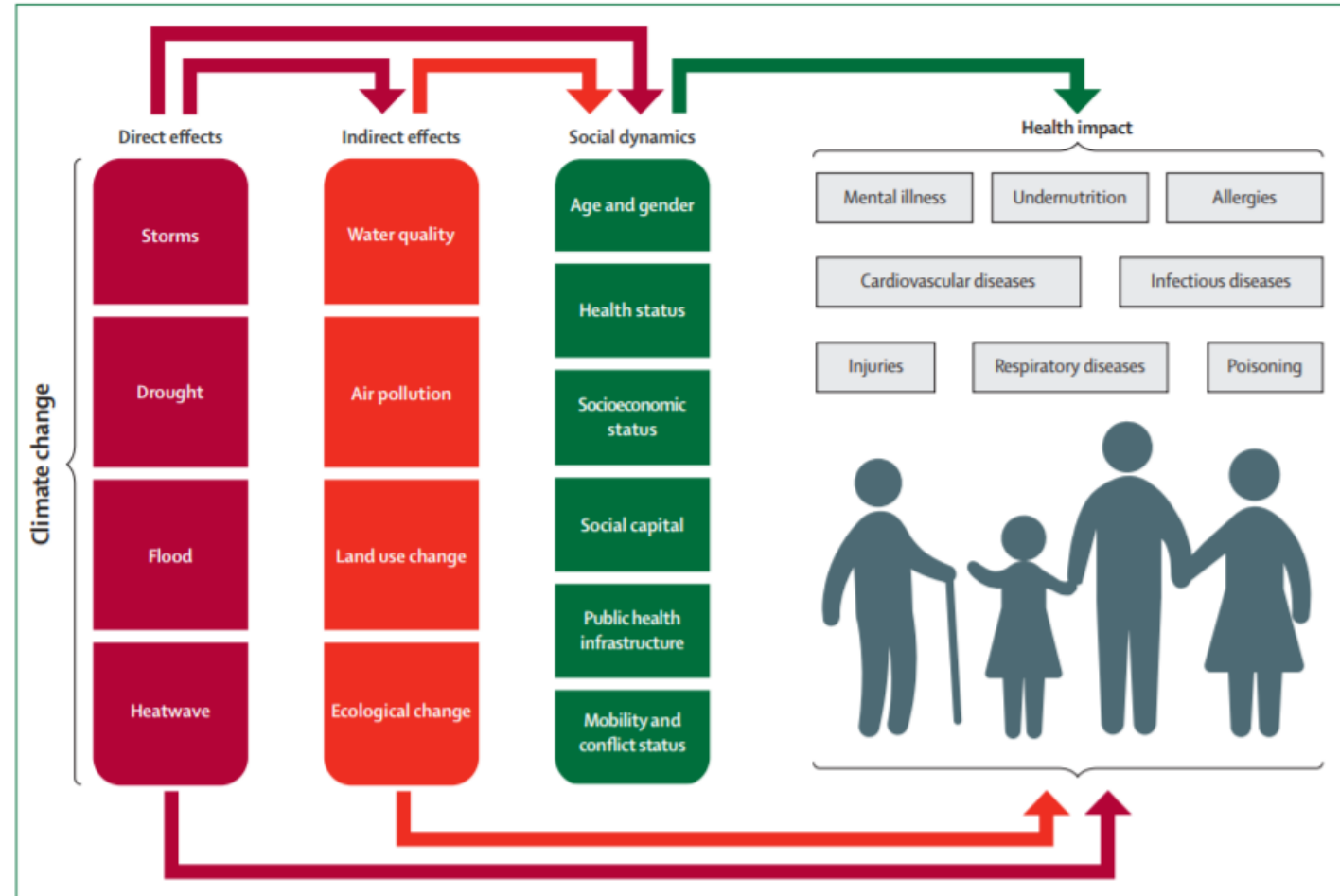
Direct and Indirect Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change will cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year from diarrhea, malnutrition, health stress and malaria between 2030 & 2050.

Exacerbates existing gender inequalities, disrupting access to SRH care, and reducing already limited opportunities for care during pregnancy & child birth.

Adolescent physical and mental health, and social development will be significantly impacted.

Anticipated increase in vector-borne diseases, respiratory illnesses, undernutrition and malnutrition.

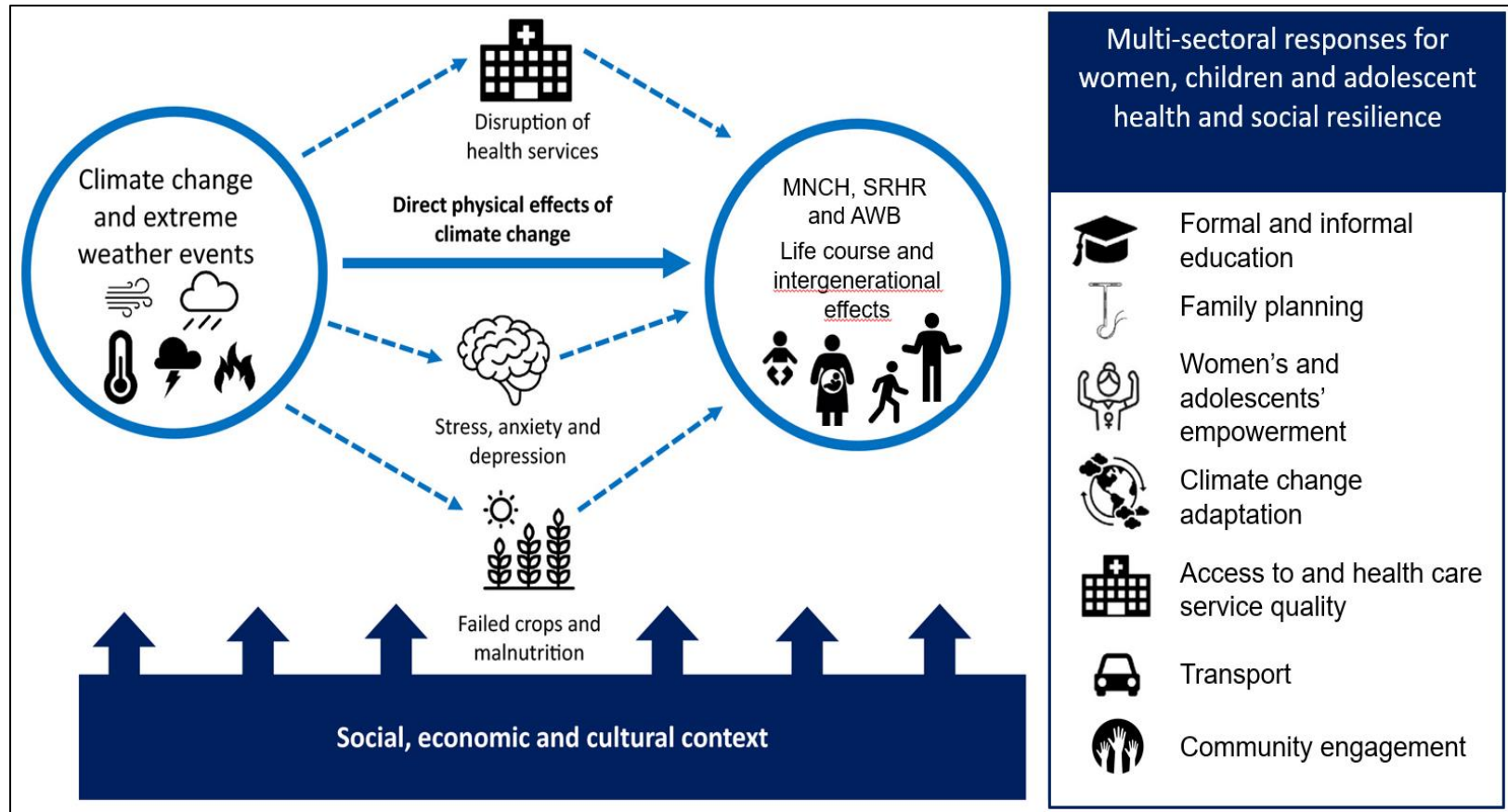


Source: [Watts et al., 2015](#).

A framework for addressing the effects of climate change on WCAH through multi-sectoral action ⁷

Addressing climate change requires integrated efforts that recognize the intersectionality of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and climate change.

There is correspondingly little information from LMICs on WCAH adaptation and resilience building measures.



Source: Adapted from [Roos et al, 2021](#)

Strategies, policies and action to support climate adaptation and resilience for WCAH

Strategies to support health in the wake of climate change	Policies & action specifically supporting climate adaptation and resilience for WCAs
National health adaptation plans	- Bundled packages of guidance for health and outreach services targeted to WCA - Loss & Damage fund at COP 27 to fund reconstruction and adaptation plans prioritizing WCAH
(City-level) CC risk assessments and remedial measures	- Package of interventions based on impact, equity and cost-effectiveness, also cross-sectoral - Co-delivered and integrated within existing platforms, supported by communities
Climate-related health emergencies detection, preparedness and response	- Integrated packages of care and preparedness for WCA emergency management
Epidemiological surveillance for early (localized) detection	- Facilitated access to climate friendly health services for WCA
Climate resilient health systems and sustainable infrastructure	- Support SRH needs for adolescents and young women, including alternative platforms
Measures in primary care and community settings	- Disaster preparedness in community settings (addressing complexity of contexts such as conflict, population displacement and socio-cultural factors)



Emerging opportunities for PMNCH Constituencies

Knowledge Synthesis

- Join existing research prioritization exercises to fill key knowledge gaps to influence policymaking (ART, DF, GFM).
- Advocacy resources to disseminate packages of interventions alongside normative agencies such as WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF (UNA, ART, AY, HCPA)
- Digital compendium of resources on impacts of climate change and heat on WCAH and interventions (ART, HCPA)

Partner Engagement

- In implementing PMNCH's [revised approach to commitment accountability and mobilization for WCAH](#), embed climate change and WCAH in country advocacy action plans and accountability. (PG, DF, IGO)
- WCAH commitment compendium, developed by the Knowledge and Evidence Working Group and Accountability Working Group, has a section on climate change.
- Strengthen the capacity of PMNCH constituencies to address the intersection of climate change and WCAH by empowering them to engage in the health and climate space (ART, AY, NGO, HCPA, PS).
- Develop a resource book for operationalizing climate change actions within WCAH (HCPA)

Campaigns and Outreach

- Use G7/G20 advocacy and the Global Leaders Network to join the call for action on intergenerational climate justice. (AY, DF, PG)
- Integrate climate change in call for action on AWB commitments and advocacy around the GFA, including by amplifying call for a [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) (AY and GFA partners)
- Advocate through global platforms such as the World Bank Fall meetings for co-financing mechanisms on climate and health specifically targeting WCAH (DF, GFM, PS)



Points to ponder

- What is PMNCH's specific added value in this space across our functions of knowledge synthesis, campaigns and outreach, and partner engagement and across PMNCH's constituencies?
- How can PMNCH bring a greater climate change lens to its work on generating new country commitments for adolescent well-being and following up on existing commitments for WCAH?
- Which partners from the climate change community are most important for PMNCH to partner with?
- How should PMNCH develop a climate-related advocacy strategy that also aligns with other challenges related to inequities, fragility and humanitarian considerations (conflict, food insecurity and displaced populations)?

