

# Climate change is world's most pressing health problem: WHO

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(HealthDay)—Climate change is the "single biggest health threat facing

humanity," and governments must "act with urgency" to tackle the crisis, a World Health Organization special report warns.

In advance of a United Nations [climate change](#) summit in early November, groups representing 45 million nurses, doctors, and [health professionals](#) worldwide signed an open letter urging action on the climate crisis, *CNN* reported.

Both the WHO [report](#) and the [open letter](#) outline major climate issues already affecting [public health](#). They include: air pollution from the burning of fossil fuels that causes climate change; more intense heat waves, floods, and storms; extreme weather worsening [food insecurity](#) and hunger; and rising sea levels wrecking homes and livelihoods.

"As health professionals and health workers, we recognize our ethical obligation to speak out about this rapidly growing crisis that could be far more catastrophic and enduring than the COVID-19 pandemic," the [letter](#) states. "Those people and nations who have benefited most from the activities that caused the climate crisis, especially fossil fuel extraction and use, have a great responsibility to do everything possible to help those who are now most at risk."

"Protecting health requires action well beyond the [health sector](#), in energy, transport, nature, food systems, finance and more," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus wrote in the report's foreword, *CNN* reported. "The health arguments for rapid climate action have never been clearer. I hope this report can guide policymakers and practitioners from across sectors and across the world to implement the transformative changes needed."

He said the report includes 10 recommendations that "provide concrete examples of interventions that, with support, can be scaled up rapidly to safeguard our health and our climate." They include creating climate-

resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems and sustainable food production as well as designing sustainable cities and transportation systems, *CNN* reported.

**More information:** [CNN Article](#)

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