

REFLECTIONS ON COP28

13 December 2023

A presentation to GFAN



BACKGROUND

- COP28 is the largest conference of parties convened by UNFCCC and host country to discuss and negotiate on collective actions to adapt and mitigate this impact of climate change.
- This year's COP28 took place in Dubai, UAE and for the first time included a dedicated health day (3rd December).
- For the first time, the Global Fund partnership participated in COP, including 3 civil society advocates (Olivia Ngou, Cameroon; Bazra Tsogt, Mongolia; and Aloyce Urassa, Tanzania).

CHALLENGES

- Size and scope! Absolutely enormous, from the sheer physical space, to the wide-ranging issues that fall within the climate agenda.
- Access to COP is challenging – accreditation to different zones (Green Zone, Blue Zone), was unclear until the last minute and makes it difficult to plan.
- The enormity of it makes it very hard to be visible. Branding opportunities are extremely limited, as are opportunities to get content and key messages across.
- Despite their being a dedicated health day, visibility of health-related issues across COP were limited and there was no dedicated health negotiated points/resolution.

THE GOOD NEWS

- Agreement to operationalize a loss and damage fund
- First dedicated health day, with historic participation of Ministers of Health (50+)
- Health Declaration signed by 123 countries
- Adoption of principles to bolster financing for climate and health
- Civil society open letter
- Funding announcements, including by the Global Fund
- Networking!

LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND

- The COP countries reached agreement on Nov. 30 in Dubai on rules to operationalize a fund to support developing countries facing the impacts of climate change. This follows an initial agreement at COP27 to establish the fund after developing countries had advocated for several decades for its creation.
- The breakthrough comes after countries recently agreed to allow the fund to be temporarily housed at the World Bank.
- Climate-related damages are expected to cost developing countries between \$280 billion and \$580 billion per year by 2030. Donors announced initial pledges on Nov. 30 totaling about \$549 million:
 - EC: \$245m
 - UAE: \$100m
 - Germany: \$100m
 - UK: \$76m
 - U.S.: \$17m
 - Japan: \$10m

HEALTH DECLARATION

- Signed by 123 countries, the Declaration was developed with the support of countries including Brazil, Malawi, UK, US, Netherlands, Kenya, Fiji, India, Egypt, Sierra Leone, and Germany.
- The Declaration refers to the nexus of climate and health, including building more climate-resilient health systems, strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration to reduce emissions and maximize the health benefits of climate action, and increasing finance for climate and health solutions.
- Signatories have committed to incorporate health targets in their national climate plans and improve international collaboration to address the health risks of climate change, including at future COPs.
- It is also recognized that finance will be a significant driver of the Declaration's success.

CLIMATE-HEALTH PRINCIPLES

- The COP28 Presidency joined the Global Fund, the Green Climate Fund, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the World Health Organization to unveil a set of ten principles to bolster financing for climate and health, mobilize new and additional finance, and foster innovation with transformative projects and new multisector approaches.
- Endorsed by over 40 financing partners and civil society organizations, the [COP28 Guiding Principles for Financing Climate and Health Solutions](#) signal the growing collaboration across funders and the momentum to support climate and health solutions in a sustainable manner.
- The principles include recognition of the need to meaningfully engage communities and civil society.

CIVIL SOCIETY OPEN LETTER

- We developed an open letter signed on to by over 300 community and civil society organizations.
- The letter articulates the climate-health nexus and how it impacts communities living with or affected by HIV, TB and malaria.
- It articulates that climate change is a human rights and equity issue which threatens to undo the progress we have made in fighting HIV, TB and malaria, and constitutes the greatest health threat to humanity.
- In the letter, we call for meaningful involvement of communities and civil society at all stages of responding to the climate-health crisis.

FUNDING COMMITMENTS

- Organization's made finance announcements dedicating USD 1 billion to address the growing needs of the climate-health crisis.
- This included the \$0.5bn by the Global Fund on Community Health Workers related investments for GC7.
- An additional \$0.5bn was committed through the Wellcome Trust, BMGF, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Rockefeller and the Green Climate Fund and a host of others.

NEXT STEPS

- We need a shared vision/plan for our engagement in the climate space. How can we strategically advance work on the climate-health nexus? How do we ensure meaningful engagement of communities and civil society in this space?
- We need to develop key messages – what is it that we collectively want to advocate for?
- We need to build our own capacity/knowledge on the climate-health nexus, and also work with the media to build theirs.
- We need to identify key milestones beyond COP, to build up our engagement.
- Identify key partners – from communities and civil society in the climate space – to other sectors. Also key to note govt champions, like the MoH of Malawi.