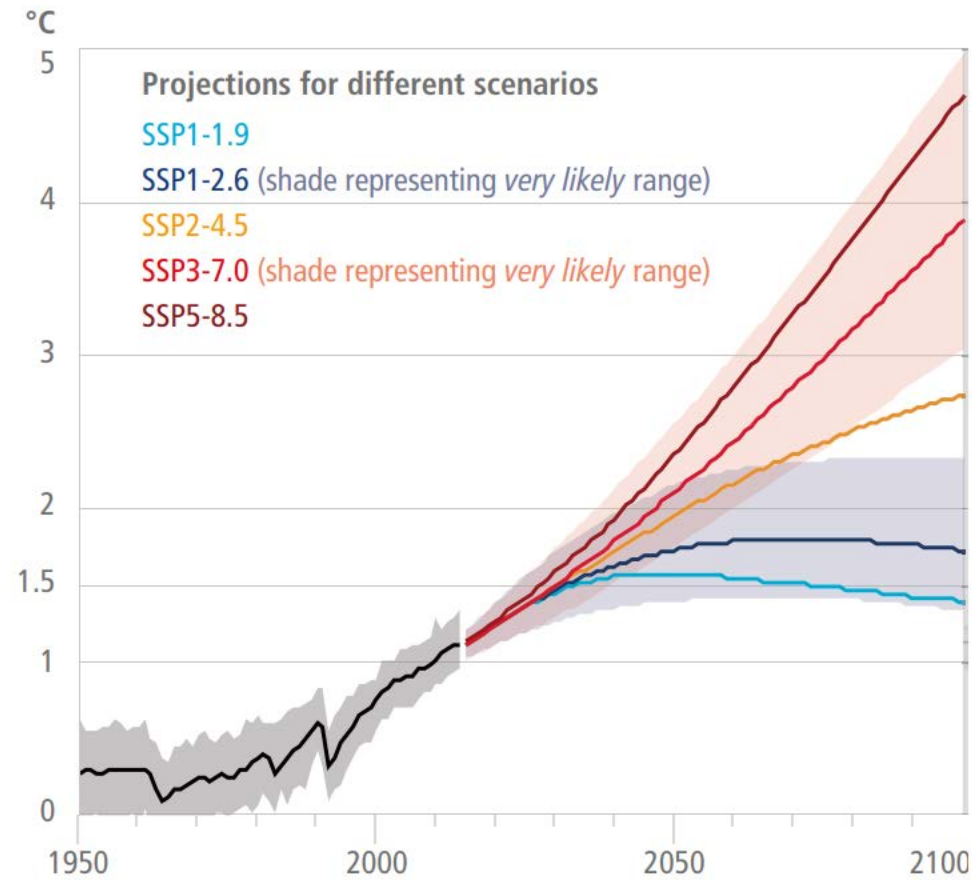


Adaptation: Addressing Climate, Health and Equity Together

Prince Mahidol Award Conference
Montira Pongsiri, PhD, MPH



(a) Global surface temperature change
Increase relative to the period 1850–1900



Climate change increases inequities

Health Risk = hazard x exposure x vulnerability (IPCC, 2014)

Climate change increases inequities

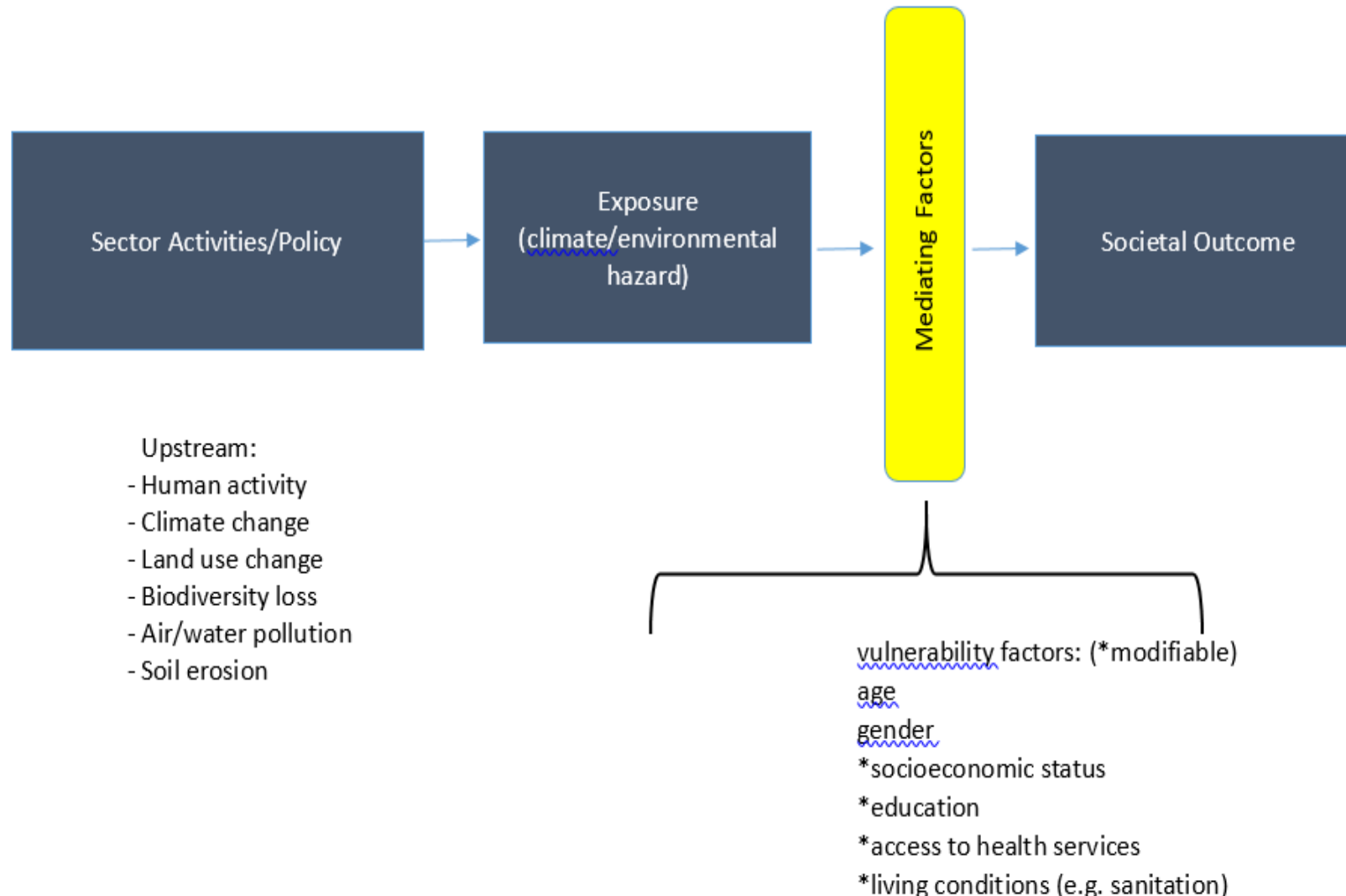
Inequality...

- Increases the exposure of the *disadvantaged social groups* to the *adverse effects of climate change*
- Increases disadvantaged groups' *susceptibility to these adverse effects*
- Decreases their relative *ability to cope with and recover* from the damages they suffer

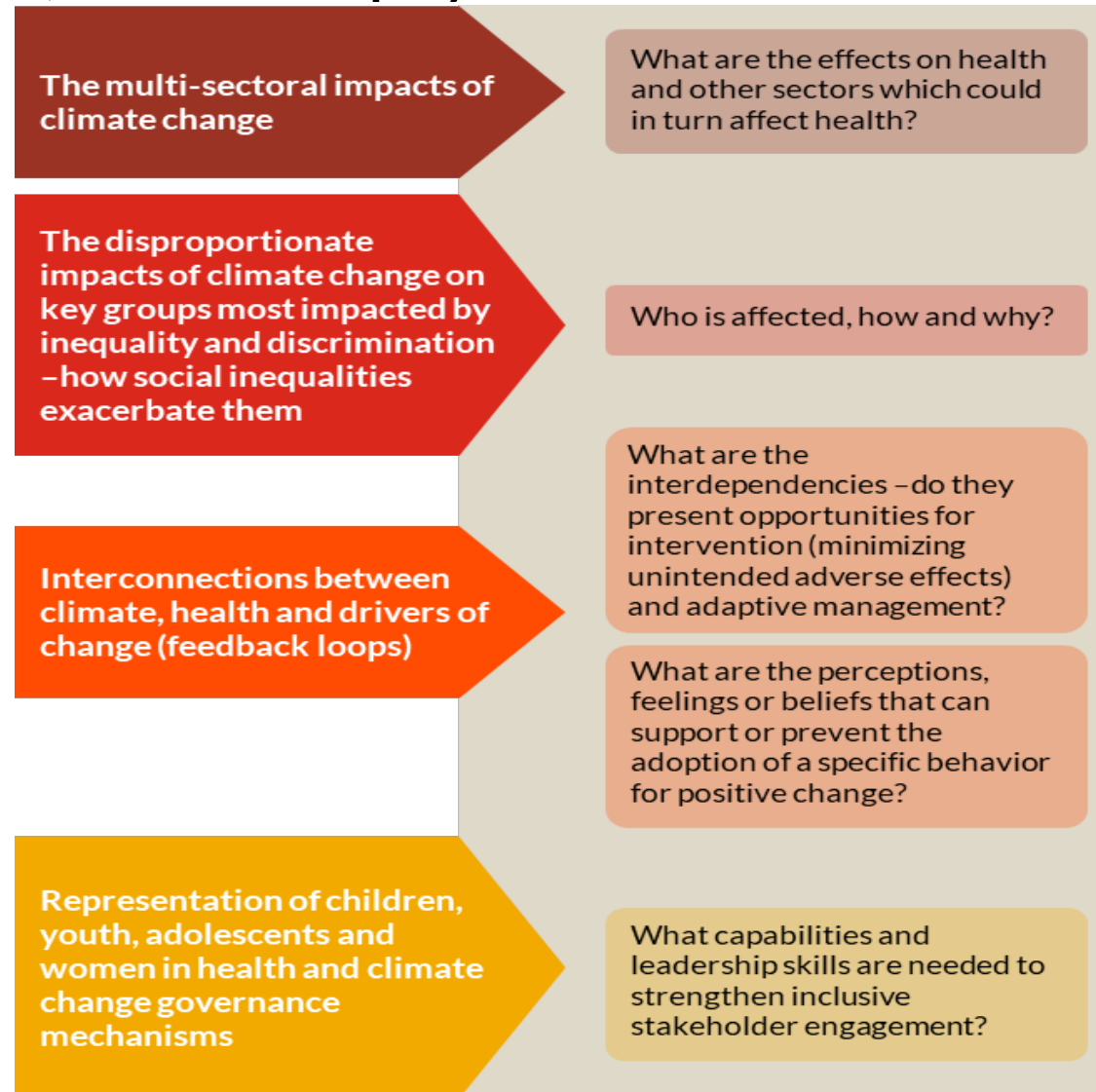
- Islam and Winkel, 2017.



Upstream multi-sectoral human-driven environmental changes and contributing social determinants of adverse health impacts



A systems approach to understanding and taking action on climate, health and equity



Applying integrated data and tools for decision support



Informed Assessment

- Assessing both the benefits of action and costs of inaction: strategies for clean energy supply and energy efficiency can lead to improved air quality and reduced air pollution- related diseases
- Assessing strategies for addressing climate and health Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) together to maximize efficiencies and resilience
- Assessing vulnerability: inform targeted action to address the equity aspects of the climate-health link according to gender, age, race, class, ability, location, and income
- Assessing the effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation policies: National Adaptation Plans should have the necessary data to select targets and indicators including those relevant to health
- Evaluating impacts of interventions affecting climate change on health: inform investment decisions to improve health and reduce environmental risks



Improved understanding and enhanced capacity

- Identify and prioritize context-specific, climate and health challenges: build shared understanding and vision for desired future
- Raising awareness: increase public pressure for action, inform more responsible behavior from relevant stakeholders, and enhance the viability of solutions
- Routine monitoring and trend analysis: plan for preparedness and attribution of health effects of climate change



Taking Action

- Designing, targeting, implementing, and evaluating context-appropriate interventions, minimizing the potential for adverse unintended consequences
- Supporting multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination to ensure relevant climate change actions are integrated into all sectors
- Supporting institutionalization of monitoring, such as for the SDGs, and for early warning tools
- Informing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to climate mitigation and adaptation
- Informing World Health Organization (WHO) Country Cooperation Strategies and Health and Climate Change Country Profiles

Operationalizing a Systems Approach to Planetary Health:

Save the Children's Strategy on Climate and Health

Objectives

- *Sustain* health
- Target climate drivers and the social determinants of ill health that drive health inequity
- Support multisectoral governance inclusive of community engagement

Evidence Synthesis: Research and Learning Agenda

Understanding climate, health and equity interconnections

- How and why are children vulnerable to climate change? What are the causal pathways?
- How do social determinants play a role?

Identifying climate actions with health benefits

- What are **context-specific, evidence-based actions** to achieve climate, health and health equity objectives together?
- What are the most **effective indicators** of climate and health action?
- What are the most **effective indicators of *non-health/health-influencing sectors*** to track?
- What are effective **social and behavioral change strategies** for reducing climate-sensitive health risks to children at the community level?

Supporting multisectoral governance of climate and health

- **What are, and how can, decisionmakers' specific needs for evidence** and capacities be addressed for effective governance of climate change, health and equity?
- What are **the enabling factors (legal, social, political, governance)** required for evidence-based implementation or having impact – and for impact to be sustained ?

Inclusive community engagement

- How can local community engagement on climate and health be most effectively conducted?

Impacts

- **Stronger health systems** with the capacity to track, plan for and respond to climate hazards and changes in risks to health
- **Communities with the capacity to prioritize the climate risks** impacting their health
- **National and sub-national plans** developed and operationalized that take action on the **multi-sectoral, systemic health impacts** of climate change and the social determinants contributing to them.
- **Voices of children and youth are elevated and amplified** in advocacy and policy discussions at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

Pathways to Impact

Overcoming the 5 key barriers to addressing climate, health and equity together



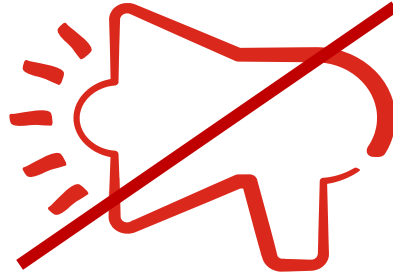
Limited Awareness

Improve understanding of multisectoral impacts of climate change and the contributing social determinants



Inadequate Recognition of Co-Benefits

Foster community actions: identify, test, evaluate and scale interventions with climate, health and equity benefits to help communities prevent or reduce adverse impacts



Decision Making Silos

Support multi-sectoral governance with integrated data/decision support tools



Limited Participation of Communities

Strengthen skills and leadership capacity to engage in co-design and implementation of actions



Inadequate Resources (Human/Financial)

Develop effective multiple-benefits based advocacy and engage public and private sectors to increase financial support for climate and health

Examples



Niger– *Reducing Malnutrition*

- Providing evidence for decision makers to prepare for the impacts of drought on food and nutrition security in Niger– and, identify which households will be more adversely affected.

Somalia – *Clean Energy for Clinics and Hospitals*

- Piloting the use of wind generators which will provide clean energy for heating water and refrigeration of vaccines; and, support jobs to maintain the system.

Asia, East Africa, Latin America - *Building Community-based Systems Maps*

- Working with 3 countries to develop community-based systems maps of climate, health, and equity interconnections and use this as a basis for identifying priority actions to prevent/reduce climate-sensitive health risks



Thank
you.



Save the Children®



