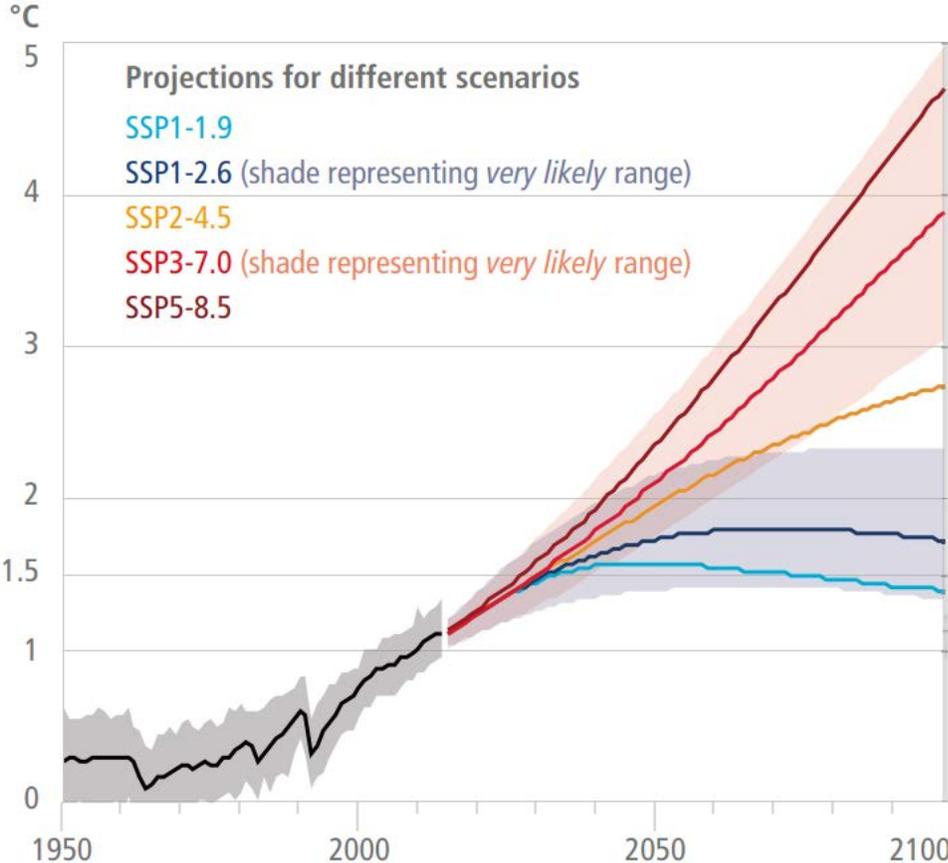


# Adaptation: Addressing Climate, Health and Equity Together

*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

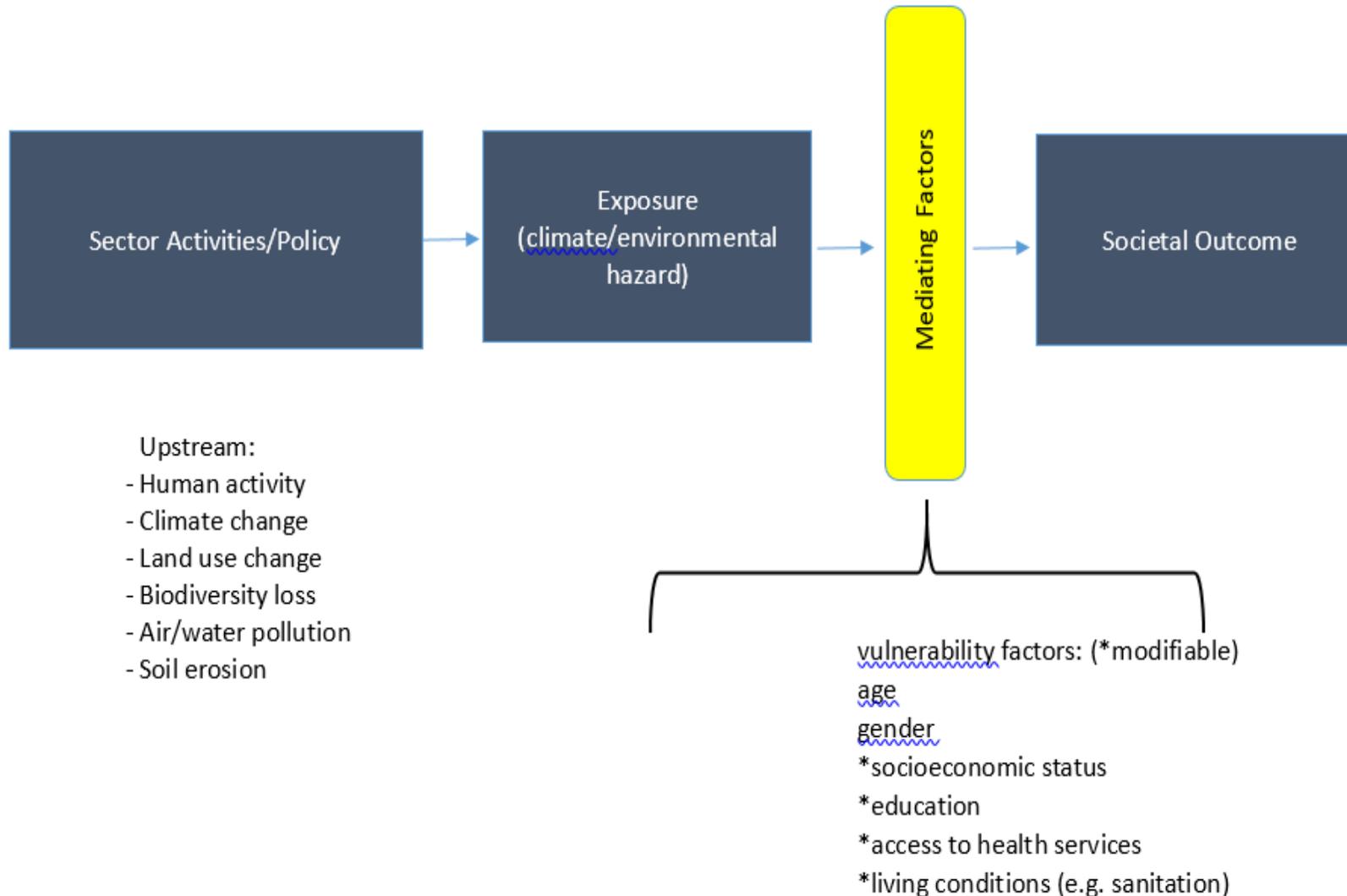
## Inequality...

- 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

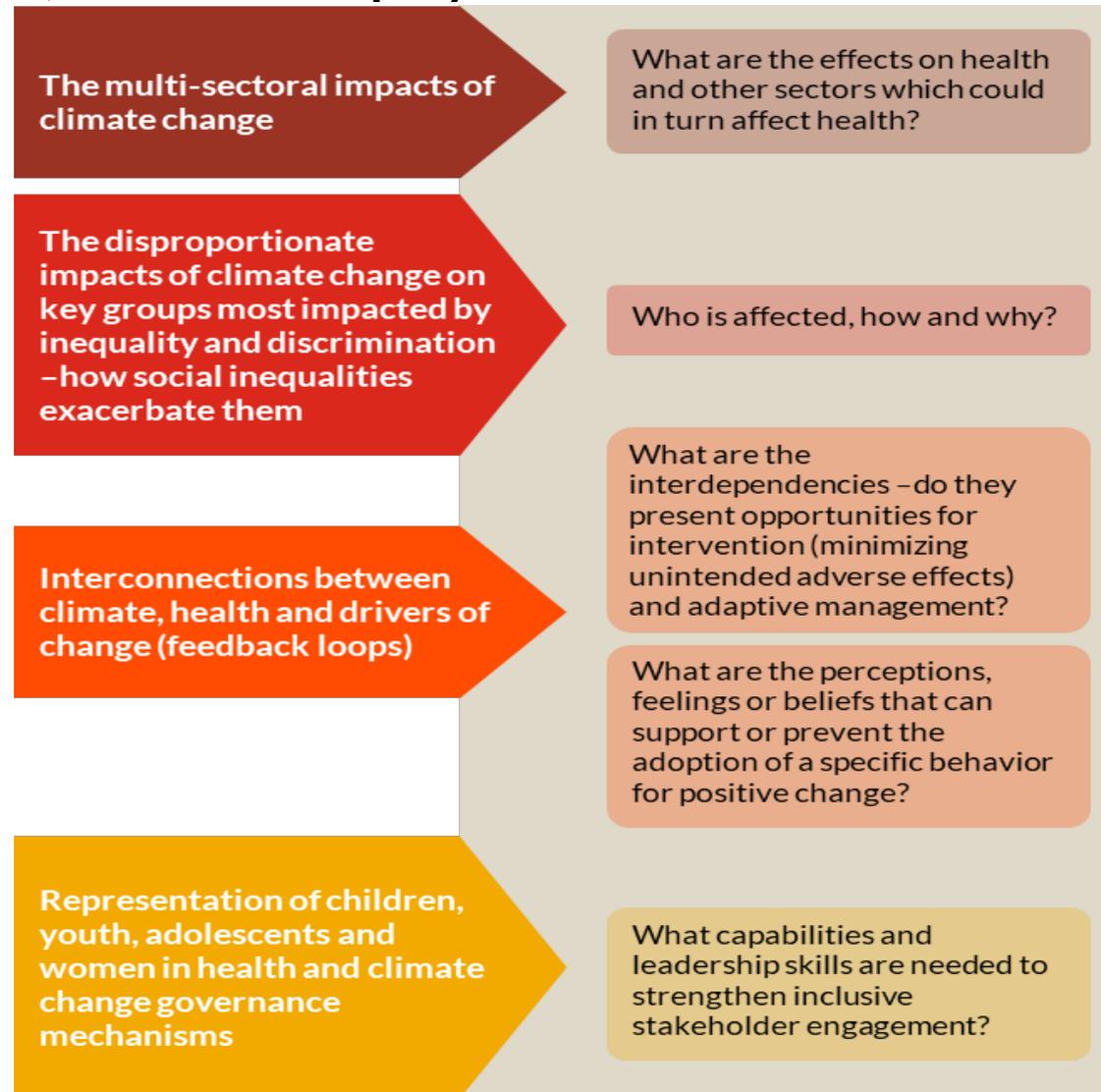
- Islam and Winkel, 2017.



# 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.

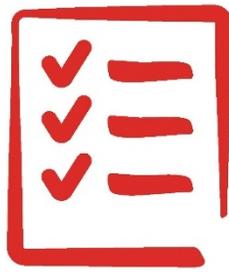
# Pathways to Impact

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



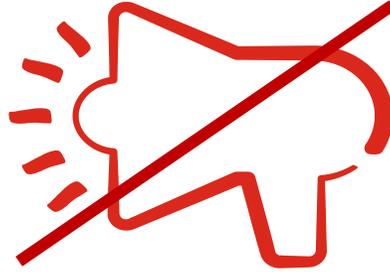
## Limited Awareness

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



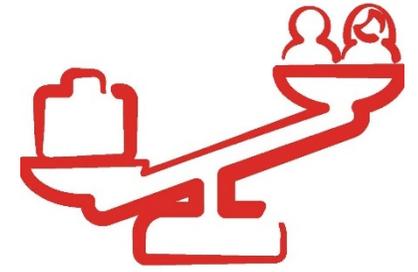
## Decision Making Silos

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.®



