



PS 3.6

MULTI-SECTORAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES: ADAPTATION

| BACKGROUND

Adaptation action advances climate-resilient communities, ecosystems, and economies, with particular focus on vulnerable populations – the poor, women, and indigenous peoples. These groups are often the most vulnerable to climate change and are at greater health risk of its impacts. A single shock (e.g. a storm) or slow onset impact (such as sea level rise) can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and increase the likelihood of locking communities already at risk into cycles of poverty. Support to countries to respond to the ongoing impacts of climate change and to prepare for likely impacts, including uncertainty, in the future, is imperative.

Climate change puts the healthcare system at risk by threatening infrastructure through extreme weather and in meeting the growing demand for treating climate-induced illness. The integration of climate risks and health into national planning and budgeting processes and strategies through Health National Adaptation Plans (H-NAPs), Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments (V&A's), and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) is also a way of drawing attention to the issue. This enables countries to align their adaptation planning processes with their national development plans and other existing planning efforts while ensuring whole-of-society and multi-stakeholder engagement with key institutions, academia, civil society, NGOs, and the private sector.

| OBJECTIVES

The objective of this session is to share examples and ideas for multisectoral practices and policies to improve understanding of and action on climate change adaptation and health across regions and to discuss challenges and opportunities. We will focus on strategies and interventions to promote health and adapt healthcare systems for climate change conditions through policy reform, innovation and modeling, national adaptation plans, and early warning detection systems. Through support to countries on adaptation policy and programming, the intention is to leverage and catalyze financing – domestic public finance and private finance – to scale up adaptation action in the context of supporting health.



Speaker

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Dr. Montira Pongsiri is the Senior Advisor on Climate and Health at Save the Children where she developed the organization-wide Climate and Health Strategy and programming priorities. She works with Country and Regional Offices across Asia, Africa and Latin America to develop and implement programming to address climate change with health benefits.

Dr. Pongsiri was the first Science Advisor at the U.S. Mission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta, Indonesia where she led the Mission's efforts to work with Member States to apply science and technology to support ASEAN's sustainability goals and to strengthen the capacity of science-based policy-making.

She was an Environmental Health Scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Research and Development where she led a research initiative on biodiversity and human health which studied the links between anthropogenic stressors, changes in biodiversity, and infectious disease transmission. Montira was the agency's lead on technical partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution. As a member of The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health, she brought expertise on environmental change-human disease linkages.

Dr. Pongsiri is a Council Member of the Southeast Asia Science Advice Network and serves on the Steering Committee of the Future Earth Health Knowledge Action Network. Her primary research and science policy interests are in applying scientific understanding of the relationship between the condition of natural systems and human health for long-term sustainability impact.