

WHAT WE HEARD

Findings from the 2024 Global Health Impact Summit



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BACKGROUND

On May 13, CanWaCH hosted its second Global Health Impact Summit in Montreal, Quebec. Over 50 invited participants gathered for a full day to listen, share and learn from each other on how to measure climate impacts on the health and rights of communities in crisis, and further explore the intersections that exist between climate change, health disparities and gender equality. Centered around the theme of Rising Tides: Measuring climate impacts on the health and rights of communities in crisis, this year's summit dovetailed with the CanWaCH Healthy World Conference, a two-day event exploring the connections between environment, health and gender equity. At the summit, participants were invited to share their innovative solutions and ongoing challenges. The goal was to better equip participants to integrate climate-inclusive MEAL (monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning) approaches, which ultimately lead to more resilient and equitable responses to the ongoing climate crises.

The one-day summit enabled Canadian and global partners to connect with one another and share tools, methodologies, learnings and best practices in effectively measuring the multifaceted impacts of climate-related challenges on the health and rights of communities in crisis – particularly women and girls. Using a peer-learning approach, participants shared radically candid presentations of the many successes and challenges they face in measuring results and impact, as well as steps taken towards mitigating or resolving those challenges.

A total of 15 currently active projects were featured, all at various stages of delivery. All projects were exploring gender and climate impacts as part of their monitoring and evaluation processes, with the ultimate aim to advance health and rights. Presenters had an opportunity to hear from others in the room, respond to questions, take recommendations and workshop ideas.

The by-invite format of the event provided a safe and confidential space for participants to share experiences, challenges and questions. While no recordings are available to maintain confidentiality, the following high-level takeaways emerged:

“This a complicated intersection – climate, health and gender – and we need to spend more time thinking about it. No one really focused on all three disciplines simultaneously. It seemed to be either climate and gender or health and gender, a few were climate and health but not many were able to articulate the sweet spot of gender/health/climate together.”
- Summit participant

TOP TAKEAWAYS

We are all facing similar challenges:

One of the most common refrains heard throughout the event was, “I’m not an expert in this”. Attendees were united in feeling uncertain about how to integrate and measure climate considerations in their global health programming. For many, this felt like new territory and there was a significant appetite for more examples and ongoing learning. Attendees welcomed the opportunity to ask questions openly and explore ways to get a better sense of how they were all approaching those issues.

We need adaptive approaches to measurement when it comes to integrating climate, gender equity and health:

It will become increasingly necessary to adopt non-traditional frameworks for MEAL approaches that integrate the nexus between human, human rights and natural systems. Organizations will need to proactively plan for the impacts of the climate crises in all program design, sustainability and evaluation plans, and these plans will be highly context-specific and include a strong gender-based analysis. The rapidly changing nature of climate change impacts on health will require skillful balancing of the standardization and best practices with the need for adaptability.

Programming approaches and funding mechanisms need to consider climate crisis impacts:

The impact of the climate crisis around the world further highlights the challenge inherent in separating humanitarian and development funding and approaches. Organizations everywhere need funds allocated specifically to climate emergencies. More predictable, flexible, core funding to organizations with simplified application processes and reporting requirements are beneficial in both humanitarian and development contexts. This streamlining allows for the rapid, real-time decision making that is needed when environmental impacts arise.

We must continue to explore the opportunities and challenges of community-led MEAL:

The urgency of the current situation calls for better collaboration and coordination among partners at all levels – government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community leaders and international partners. A lot of emphasis was placed on the need for highly localized interventions where the community designs data collection, analysis and use for their benefit. There is evidence that transformative change happens faster with localized data. Programs should tap into the experience of frontline workers, who have first hand knowledge of the health impacts of climate change. At the same time, there are challenges that need to be explored and unpacked to ensure community leadership is genuine and not performative.

“ My biggest takeaway is that integrating climate change mitigation and/or adaptation into their health programming is on the minds of most organizations attending, however many are not yet experts in this area and have not necessarily gotten to the point where they have actively incorporated mitigation/adaptation activities into projects and activities. ”

- Summit participant



WHAT'S NEXT

Commitment to continual learning is key:

While the global health sector is knowledgeable on the obstacles, challenges and determinants of health related to climate change and potential adaptation and mitigation strategies, organizations do not necessarily know where to find and how to effectively apply the tools, indicators and frameworks to do this. Technical guidance, training and resources relevant to the health sector, and with a particular sensitivity to gender equity and human rights, are critical.

Going forward, CanWaCH will:

- » **Foster continuous learning opportunities** by creating spaces for spontaneous and organic peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, as well as providing platforms for learning.
- » **Share and amplify existing resources** through our communications channels to ensure widespread access to reputable communities, tools and frameworks.
- » **Facilitate networking and opportunities for partnership** by connecting Canadian organizations with diverse international partners responsible for addressing climate, health and gender issues.

“The sector has a wealth of knowledge on the issue of climate and health and potential adaptation and mitigation strategies, but little is known/shared on tangible solutions.”
- Summit participant



RESOURCES

- [Global Health Impact Report 2024 Spotlight: Climate-Conscious Measurement in Global Health](#), CanWaCH
- [Climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments: A knowledge to action resource guide](#), Health Canada
- [Footprint Evaluation](#), Footprint Evaluation Initiative
- [Footprint Evaluation's guide on integration climate resiliency in the OECD DAC evaluation criteria](#), Footprint Evaluation Initiative
- [Health and Nutrition Programming Guide](#), World Renew
- [Mapping social vulnerability indicators to understand the health impacts of climate change: a scoping review](#), The Lancet
- [Mobilizing Public Health Action on Climate Change in Canada](#), Public Health Agency of Canada
- [National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health](#), NCCEH - CCSNE
- [Operational framework for building climate resilience and low carbon health systems](#), WHO
- [Research quality plus: Evaluating research differently](#), IDRC
- [The link between climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights](#), Women Deliver
- [Operational Framework for Building Climate Resilient Health Systems](#), WHO
- [Climate change and health research: Current trends, gaps and perspectives for the future](#), WHO
- [Toolkit for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for National Adaptation Plan Processes](#), IISD
- [Conducting Gender Analysis to Inform National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Processes: Reflections from six African countries](#), NAP Global Network
- [The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change](#), The Lancet
- [ClimateLinks: A Global Knowledge Portal for Climate and Development Practitioners](#), USAID
- [The need for community-led, integrated and innovative monitoring programmes when responding to the health impacts of climate change](#), International Journal of Circumpolar Health
- [From what works to what will work. Integrating climate risks into sustainable development evaluation – a practical guide](#), IIED
- [Introduction to Environmental Evaluation Approaches and Tools](#), Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility (GEF IEO)
- [Monitoring and evaluation in climate action video series](#), Global Evaluation Initiative



2024 SUMMIT PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

1. [Alinea International](#): Gender-responsive One Health in Ethiopia and Kenya – climate considerations in measuring One Health
2. [Canadian International Scientific Exchange Program \(CISEPO\)](#): Cultivating resilience across borders: Community-driven health equity from Nunavut to the West Bank in the face of climate-induced crises
3. [Canadian Red Cross](#):
 - a. Global challenges – Local solutions: Navigating the pitfalls of localization: a case study from the work of Canadian Red Cross in Honduras
 - b. Navigating conflict, climate, and collaborative community health: A deeper dive into the Canadian Red Cross’ health programming in Haiti
4. [Centre for Global Child Health, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto](#): A global gap map and research prioritization exercise to address the effects of climate change on women and children’s health
5. [Grand Challenges Canada](#): Adapting health innovations in response to climate change: a conversation with innovators
6. [HealthBridge Foundation Canada](#): Climate impacts on health: implications for HealthBridge programs and adaptation strategies
7. [Health Partners International of Canada](#): Health Outreach, Prevention and Education (H.O.P.E) project
8. [Right to Play](#): From reactive to proactive: how Right To Play can prioritize climate impact measures in health projects
9. [Salanga](#): Community wisdom: 3 striking surprises from communities driving monitoring, evaluation and action planning to tackle gender-based violence
10. [Save the Children Canada](#): Integrating climate adaptation initiatives into health programming: building sustainable foundations for adolescent SRHR in West Africa
11. [SOS Childrens’ Villages](#): Socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable female households in Baidoa, Somalia, through climate-resilient farming methods
12. [The Geneva Learning Foundation](#): From community to planet: health workers as leaders on the frontlines of climate change and health
13. [Veterinarians Without Borders](#): Reducing women’s exposure to zoonotic risks in senegal through a community-based One Health approach
14. [WaterAid Canada](#): WASH in One Health: highlighting the environmental pillar in disease reduction
15. [World Vision Canada](#): Reducing Environmental Shocks, Improving Livelihoods, and Inspiring Empowered, iNnovative and Thriving Women of Ethiopia (RESILIENT-WE)

