



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Webinar series: Health in climate emergencies #3

Building resilience: Universal health coverage in the climate change era

22 February 2024, 14:00 – 15:00 CET

Concept note

Background

Climate change hinders the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC) through negative health impacts and disruptions to health care systems due to changing disease patterns, increases in the number and magnitude of extreme weather events and climate-related disasters, and population displacement. Furthermore, as climate change intensifies, limited national resources need to be redirected to deal with its consequences, which puts the financing of UHC policies at risk. Developing countries may face particular challenges in ensuring UHC despite being the most exposed to climate risks.

However, UHC can become a factor of resilience. The [COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health](#) recognizes UHC as key to preparing communities and the most vulnerable populations for the impacts of climate change. UHC, as part of comprehensive social protection and poverty reduction strategies, helps build the resilience of vulnerable groups and communities to cope with crises and shocks, including climate emergencies. By strengthening the understanding of links between UHC and climate change, UHC plans can ensure the evolving health needs of populations due to climate change are taken into account; support the continuity of health services during emergencies; and promote climate adaptation and mitigation strategies that protect health.

This is the third and final webinar of a series organized by the IPU on health in climate emergencies to help parliaments more effectively address the health-climate change nexus.

Focus and objectives

The webinar will reflect on how to design and implement UHC policies and strategies that take into account climate change with a view to building resilience. Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and recent climate-related emergencies on how to “build back better” and articulating different social and environmental factors will inform the discussion. More specifically, the webinar will:

- Reflect on the environmental determinants of health and how a better understanding of the health-climate change nexus can inform national agendas on UHC;
- Draw on lessons learnt from past emergencies to link climate change action, emergency preparedness and response, and sustainable development for resilience-building;
- Identify the specific areas of interest and needs of parliaments seeking to harmonize the climate and UHC agendas.

The webinar is open to all interested parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. It will take place on the Zoom platform. There will be simultaneous interpretation between English, French and Spanish.

Provisional programme

14:00 – 14:05 CET	Welcome and objectives
14:05 – 14:30	<p>UHC and climate change</p> <p>The presentation will be followed by a Q&A with participants.</p>
14:30 – 14:55	<p>Building resilience: Lessons from COVID-19 and climate-related emergencies</p> <p>The presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion. Parliamentarians are invited to share their countries' experiences in building resilience through UHC and including climate change in UHC policies.</p>
14:55 – 15:00	Conclusion