

Climate change and inequality – how can adaptation protect the most vulnerable?

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Understanding vulnerability

- Children, infants, newborns are already experiencing a “climate penalty”
- Gender affects both risks and capacity to response to climate change
- Intergenerational equity: impacts on our children now will affect future generations
- Adaptation can increase inequality unless measures are well designed.



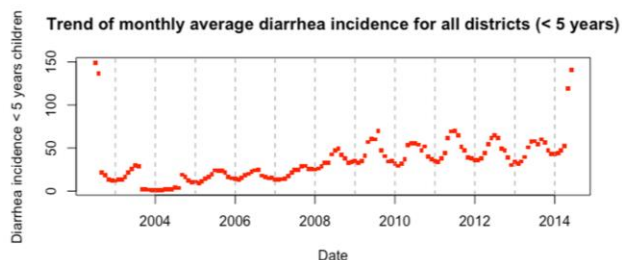
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Climate change and diarrheal disease

- Children under 5 most affected.
- New research in South Asia [Nepal, Taiwan]
- High temperatures and heavy rainfall increase risk of diarrhoea, and this increased risk is greatest in under 5s



*A mother comforts her young son who has been ill with severe diarrhoea for several days, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
Photo credit: Louis Leeson/LSHTM*



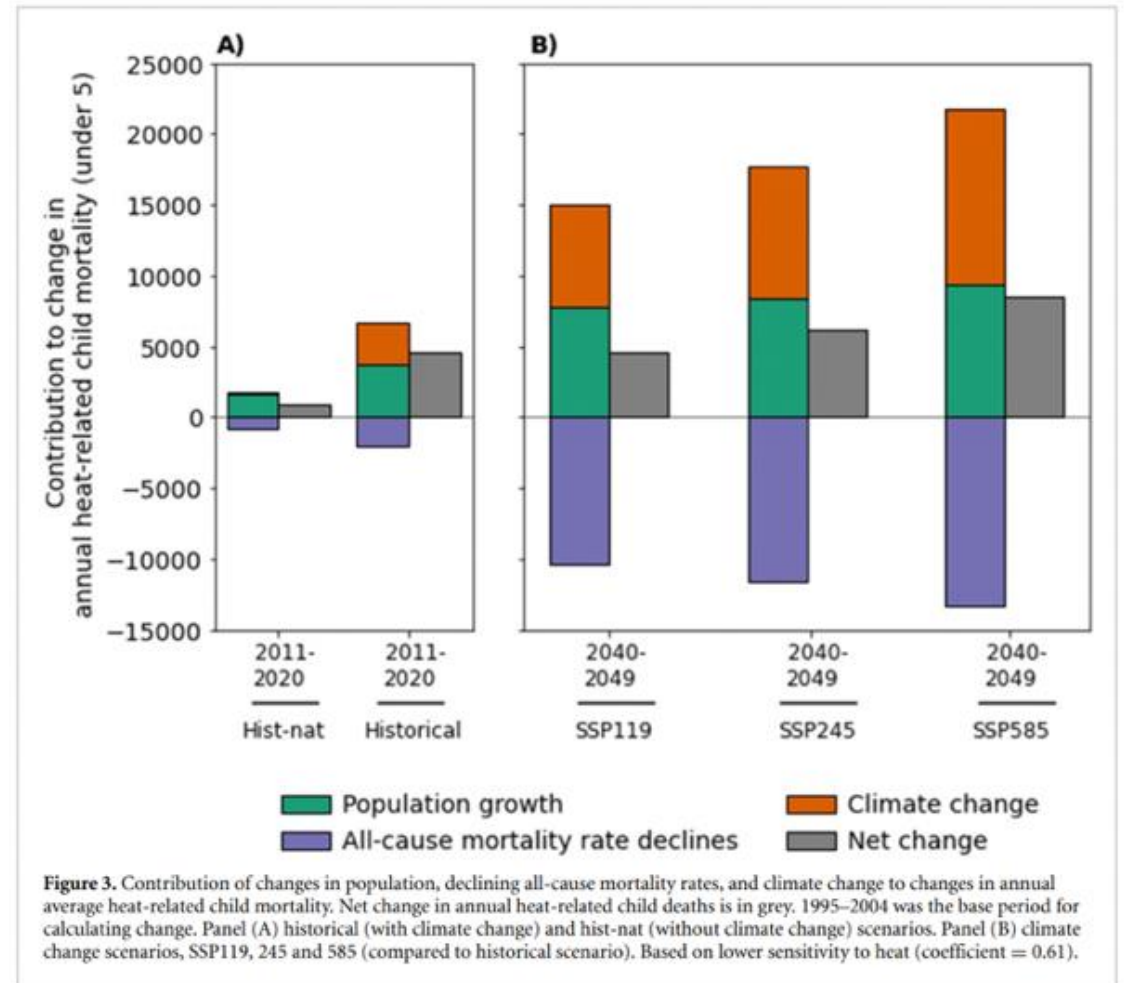
AWARD-APR

Addressing Extreme Weather Related
Diarrheal Disease Risks
in the Asia Pacific Region



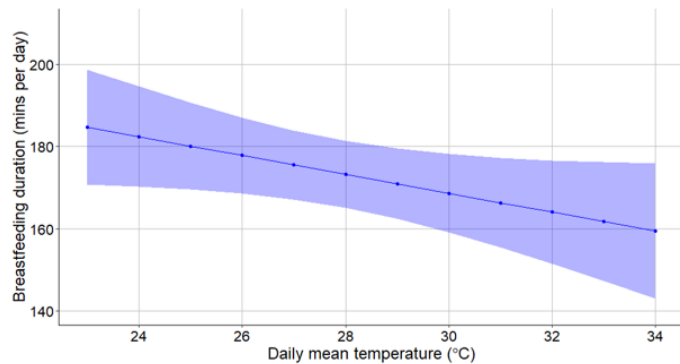
Climate change has already impacted child health

- Climate change will increase heat-related child deaths
- Observed warming has already offset benefits of reductions in child mortality
- Climate change “penalty”

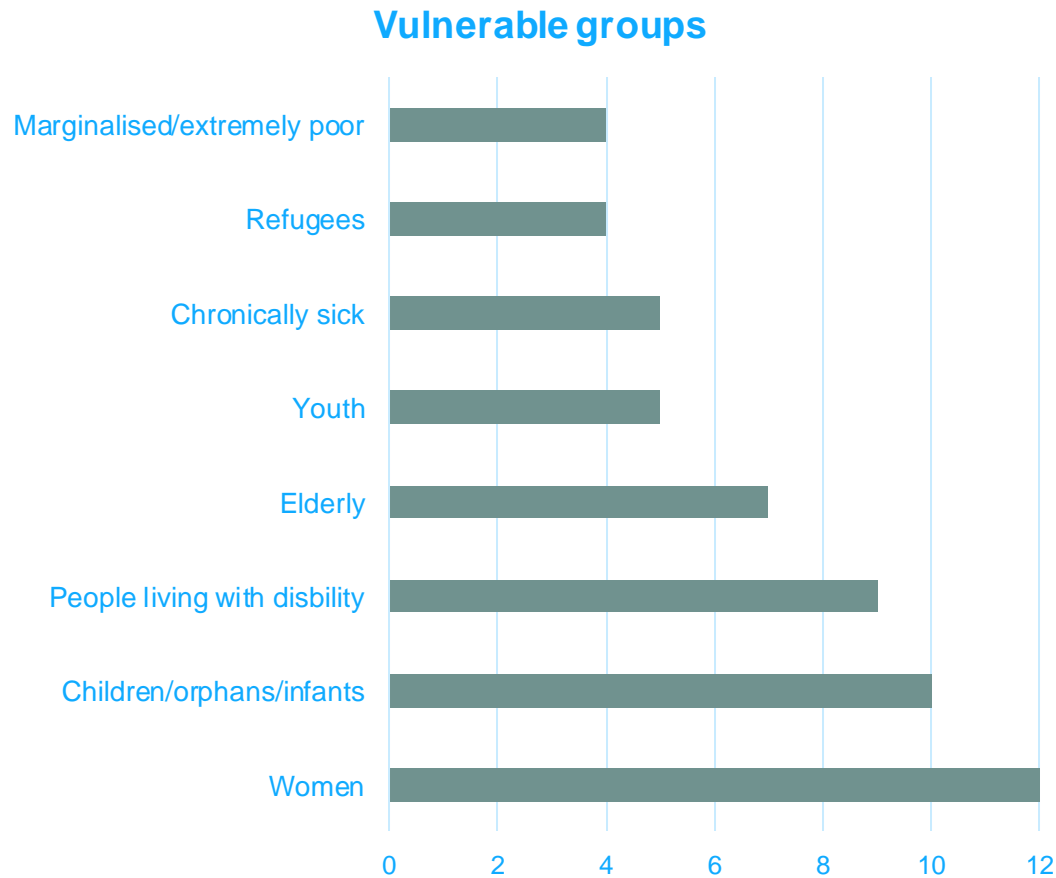


Heat impacts on newborns

- Newborns are not able to regulate their temperature
- High temperatures
 - decrease breast feeding
 - disrupts infant care (skin to skin contact)



NAPs: national adaptation planning



- Review of NAPs and HNAPs in Southern and East Africa (n=12)
- Gender-sensitive adaptation is a priority

Adaptation policy to protect children

- Develop and expand social protection mechanisms for vulnerable communities
- Advocate for equal participation of vulnerable groups in adaptation options (women/youths associations)
- Ensure climate change response activities/policies are gender-sensitive
- Early warning for all - enhance early warning and response systems



Key messages: action needed

- Climate hazards currently disrupt health interventions and are undermining global health strategies.
- Adaptation requires evidence for best methods to address inequalities – hard to reach groups
- Capacity strengthening in environmental public health research and practice





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