



Concept Note

Roundtable on: *Enabling Climate Information Services for Enhanced Health Resilience in Africa* at the 2nd Africa Climate Summit (ACS2)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Date: 8th September 2025; Time: 11:30 to 13:00; Meeting room; The Rockefeller Foundation Pavillion

Background

Timely, reliable, and accessible climate information services (CIS) are essential for understanding climate change as a health risk multiplier driving shifts in disease prevalence, distribution, and other health vulnerabilities. The last IPCC report project more intense and frequent extreme events which will impacts health diseases, in a context of lack of resources and infrastructures in Africa the best adaptation strategy is to anticipate using climate drivers. Climate information gaps undermine capacity of African countries to build effective early warning systems, surveillance, preparedness and response to manage climate-driven health risks. Existing observation stations and instruments are scanty and unevenly distributed, limited historical climate information records undermine establishing evidence.¹ Furthermore, there are notable gaps and challenges in the credibility and trust of available information, digital infrastructure for generating and disseminating climate data for health solutions. These interlinked and systemic barriers together with fragmented financing and persistent science-policy disconnects undermine capacities to co-create, integrate, and curate climate–health data systems.²

These challenges underscore the need for robust and collaborative mechanisms to integrate climate and health data systems. Some actors in Africa have taken on the challenge to address this with solution-driven initiatives with their partners. For instance: (i) the **Advance Warning and Response Exemplars (AWARE)** project supported by Wellcome, Gates Foundation and Gates Ventures, strengthens the evidence base for early warning in low-resource settings, enabling policy-makers to prepare for infectious disease emergencies; (ii) **Enhancing National Climate Services (ENACTS)** works with National Meteorological Services in Africa to improve the availability and quality of climate data by blending available historical records with current climate models and observational data. Such initiatives offer valuable lessons and opportunities for scaling up integrated climateresilient health solutions. Learning from these initiatives can ensure climate and health systems are actionable, delivering timely information that policymakers and practitioners can readily use to protect health.

Rationale for the roundtable discussion

¹ <https://www.unclearn.org/wp-content/uploads/library/b11990338.pdf>

² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/B9780128159989000075>

The **Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2) - 8th to 10th September 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** will bring together over 25,000 delegates, including policymakers, practitioners, businesses and civil society, from across Africa and the globe. Under the theme ***Accelerating Global Climate Solutions: Financing for Africa's resilient and Green Development***, the Summit seeks to secure bold financial and political commitment for climate adaptation, mitigation and green growth while empowering communities and fostering equitable partnerships and multilateral cooperation. The summit provides an opportunity to gather African stakeholders to discuss priorities for integrating and strengthening Climate Information Services (CIS) for health.



The **Science for Africa Foundation (SFA Foundation)**, **Wellcome**, the **African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)**, and **Rockefeller Foundation** are co-hosting a high-level roundtable to explore challenges, opportunities, and mechanisms for ***Enabling Climate Information Services for Enhanced Health Resilience in Africa***. By taking a scoping approach that explores existing initiatives and practices in Africa, the roundtable will surface actionable pathways towards making climate information a public good that is openly accessible to all, and especially to the most climate-vulnerable communities. This dialogue will feature AWARE project findings from Kenya and South Africa, showcasing exemplary practices in advance warning, data sharing and integration, and governance and decision-making, alongside cross-country insights to inform actionable climate-health solutions for Africa.

Through this dialogue, SFA Foundation, Wellcome, ACMAD, and Rockefeller Foundation reaffirm their shared commitment to partnering with African institutions, communities and global partners to build knowledge systems, governance frameworks, and delivery mechanisms required to translate climate science into tangible health resilience outcomes. Central to this is the integration of climate information into health surveillance, early warning, and response systems, ensuring that data informs real-time decision-making and long-term health planning.

Objectives:

1. Map and prioritize systemic barriers preventing the coordination and effective use of CIS in Africa, including building frameworks for the improvement of evidence-based climate and health integration.
2. Showcase scalable and last-mile-responsive models that integrate scientific data with local needs;
3. Strengthen science-policy-practice linkages to ensure that climate services are trusted, used, and co-owned by end users and to support countries in delivering CIS.
4. Mobilize collective commitment and investment toward a more inclusive, African-led CIS ecosystem.

Expected outcomes:

1. Enhanced awareness of the importance of CIS in building health systems resilience in Africa, including challenges, opportunities for interlinkages with other related sectors.

2. Identification and prioritization of priority strategies and scalable solutions and practices for co-creating, accessing and sharing climate data and information among cross-sectoral stakeholders
3. Establish commitment mechanisms for creating synergies for science-policy-practice engagements in CIS for health solutions in Africa.
4. Identify and unlock funding avenues for equitable, inclusive, Africa-led investment in the CIS ecosystem.
5. Launch of a collective scoping exercise on modalities and instruments for strengthening CIS for health in Africa

Expected participants:

The roundtable discussion is expected to bring together about 25 experts including climate scientists, health practitioners, policy makers, private sector, public health and research funders and representatives of diverse communities, including women and youth and other vulnerable groups.