

Empowering Action for Climate and Health

Stories from the Field

The Pan American Health Organization is pleased to share new materials that empower action on climate change and health. They include three stories from the field, social media cards and videos.

Through the human interest stories you will travel across the region to learn what climate leaders are doing to adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate.

These multimedia stories highlight work supported by the EU/CARIFORUM Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems in the Caribbean and Green Climate Fund Caribbean Readiness projects.

From Classrooms to Care Homes

Dr. Nyoni Winchester in Grenada and Mr. Nayan Persaud in Guyana, show how tailored community-level action makes a difference. Winchester, a Livestock Veterinarian, and lecturer at St. Georges University in Grenada, hosted Grenada's first Heat-Threshold Development Symposium and focussed on the impact of heat on the elderly.

Meanwhile, Persaud's goal is to ensure that students graduate with the understanding that "everybody has a responsibility to protect our planet and to ensure health is also protected in that process." Together they underscore the need for a more holistic perspective on climate and health; one that empowers both the elderly and the young to understand and play their part in protecting our planet and, by extension, themselves.



Caribbean Health Warriors: Early Warning Systems in the Fight Against Dengue



Dengue fever has long been a recurring menace, particularly challenging for small island developing states (SIDS) vulnerable to climate change impacts. However, early warning systems (EWS), which are leveraging advanced mathematical models that predict disease outbreaks, have emerged as powerful tools, enabling Health Officials and Caribbean communities to respond proactively and more effectively.

Dr. Laura Lee Boodram, head of the Caribbean Regional Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), describes the EWS as "a very sophisticated mathematical model that uses our health surveillance data to potentially predict when an outbreak might occur in the future."



Roots of Resilience: Caribbean Youth Lead the Climate-Health Movement

Put simply, Caribbean youth are stepping up!

Not just as future leaders, but as present-day agents of change in the face of rising seas, sweltering temperatures, and intensifying storms. Youth Ambassadors in Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados are advancing innovative youth-led solutions that tackle one of the region's most urgent challenges, climate change and health.

In Antigua and Barbuda, CARICOM Youth Ambassador Esquire Henry is spearheading a grassroots project with far-reaching impacts called the Wetland and Coastline Assessment and Management Project (WAMP). On the island of Barbados, a different seed is being sown; one that links agriculture, food security, and healthy living. The “Growing Tomorrow’s Harvest” project, led by UNICEF Youth Advocate and CARICOM Youth Ambassador Ashley Lashley, introduces students aged 11 to 15 to sustainable gardening practices.

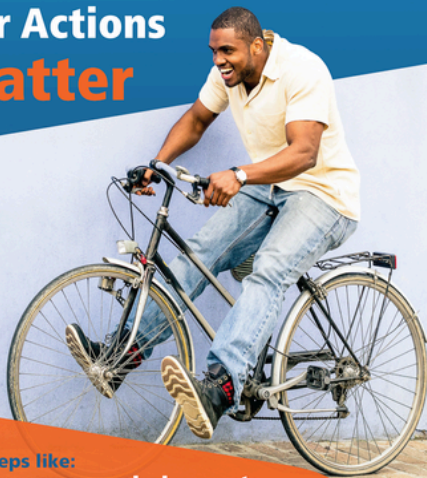


New Products



Through the kind sponsorship of the Green Climate Fund we are providing you with new posters and social media cards to help explain to the public how climate impacts our health in the Caribbean. Please feel free to use them and share.

Our Actions Matter



Simple Steps like:
conserving energy, reducing waste
and choosing non-motorized transport
such as walking and cycling
help protect our planet and our health.



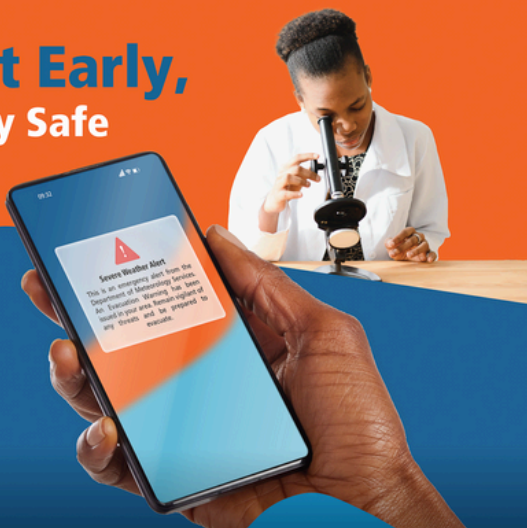
Eat Smart, Stay Healthy



Local, nutritious food choices
support health and reduce the carbon footprint
linked to long-distance food imports.



Act Early, Stay Safe



Early warning systems, and disease surveillance
help prevent climate-sensitive diseases and illnesses
like dengue, leptospirosis and heat stroke.



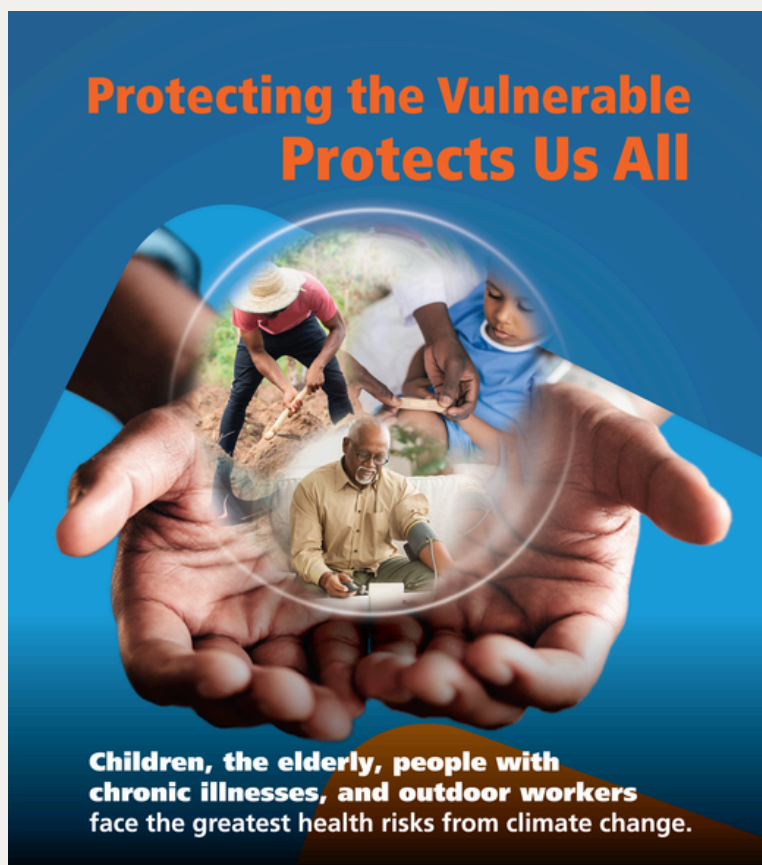
Climate Resilient Health Systems Save Lives



Disaster-ready, energy-efficient healthcare facilities
are essential to ensure care during storms,
heatwaves and floods.



New Posters and Social Media Cards



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