



COP28 **CALL TO ACTION**

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Background

Climate change and infectious diseases have emerged as intertwined challenges that demand our immediate attention. Impacts of climate change on health and disease are undeniable, and the governments, academic institutions, private sector industries, and health organizations must unite to combat this threat. Imperative that we address this intersection of climate change and infectious diseases, prioritizing the most vulnerable populations and fostering health equity...



Background

While countries in the global south contribute less than 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, they are likely to suffer the largest health impacts from climate change.

Not only are developing countries more at risk of climate disasters and harm, but they also have less adaptive capacity and preparedness to respond to these threats, making developing countries highly vulnerable (low preparedness vs climate risk).

The response to climate change should be used as an opportunity to build capacity to protect and support health, especially in underserved and underrepresented communities.





We call upon:

- Governments,
- Academic institutions
- Scientists
- Public Health officials
- Private sector industries
- Health organizations



Why:

We call these people to collectively address the urgent and interconnected challenges of climate-amplified diseases and epidemics through their diverse expertise, resources, and influence.

Call to Action:

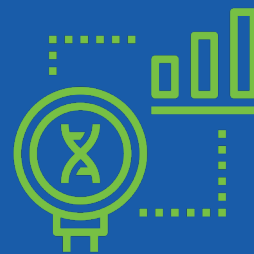
1.

Report
Outbreaks
Timeously



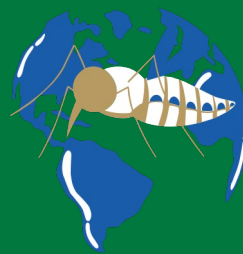
2.

Strengthen
Genomic
Surveillance



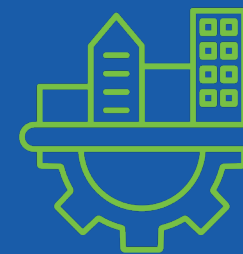
3.

Prioritize
Vulnerable
Populations



4.

Promote
Climate
Resilience



5.

Commit
Sustainable
Funding



Call to Action 1: Report Outbreaks timeously

Immediate and transparent reporting of infectious disease outbreaks is paramount. **Governments and health organizations** should commit to reporting outbreaks promptly and openly, sharing crucial data with relevant stakeholders. This transparency is essential for global preparedness and response efforts.



“Early detection of an outbreak can help to guide the response and reduce the spread of diseases”

- **James Ayei Maror**, National Public Health Laboratory, South Sudan



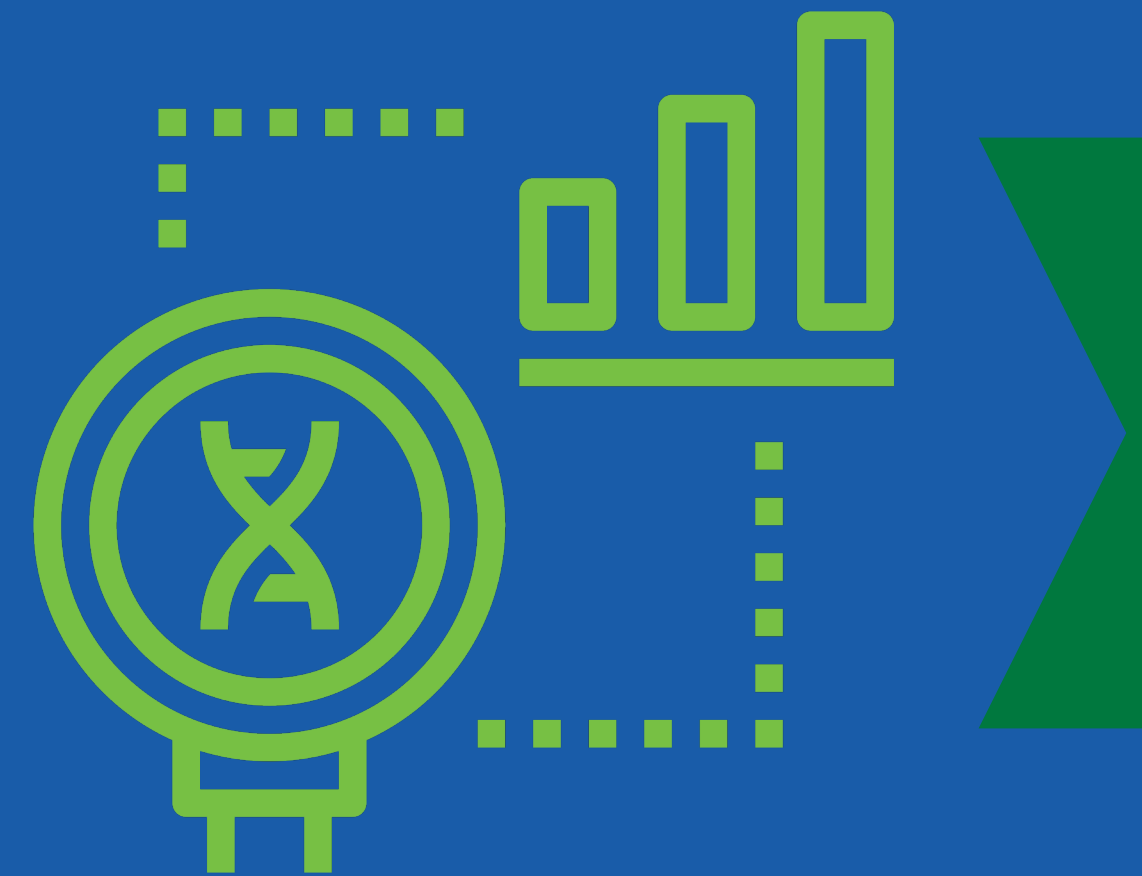
Call to Action 2: Strengthen Genomic Surveillance

Governments, academic institutions, and health organizations must invest in and expand genomic surveillance capabilities to monitor the spread and evolution of infectious diseases. This will enable early detection and response to emerging threats, allowing us to prevent outbreaks before they escalate.



“The monitoring of pathogenic agents through research and the study of their behavior in the face of climate change, whether towards resistance or sensitivity to climate change, will make it possible to anticipate actions to prevent epidemics or their rapid response in the event of an outbreak.”

- **Nkuurunziza Jerome**, National Institute of Public Health, Burundi



Call to Action 3: Prioritize Vulnerable Populations

The most vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected by the intersection of climate change and infectious diseases. **Governments and private sector industries** must prioritize these populations by investing in resilient healthcare systems, infrastructure, and disaster preparedness measures.



“Climate change, infectious diseases and outbreaks/epidemics in Uganda are closely intertwined and can result in long-lasting socio-economic effects such as a weakened and less productive workforce in addition to increased healthcare costs on already stretched system”

- **Aloysious Ssemaganda**, Uganda - National Health Laboratories and Diagnostic Services



Call to Action 4: Promote Climate Resilience

Academic institutions and private sector industries should collaborate to develop innovative solutions that enhance climate resilience within healthcare systems. This includes designing infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events and ensuring the availability of essential medical supplies during crises.



“Climate resilience helps combat disease outbreaks by enhancing a community's ability to adapt and respond to changing environmental conditions. Resilient systems can withstand and recover from climate-related challenges, reducing vulnerabilities that could otherwise facilitate disease transmission.”

Yameen Badrodien, University of Cape Town, South Africa



Call to Action 5: Commit Sustainable Funding

Governments, private sector industries, and health organizations must commit to sustainable funding dedicated to the fight against climate change-related infectious diseases. This funding should support research, capacity-building, and community engagement to create a robust defense against these converging threats.

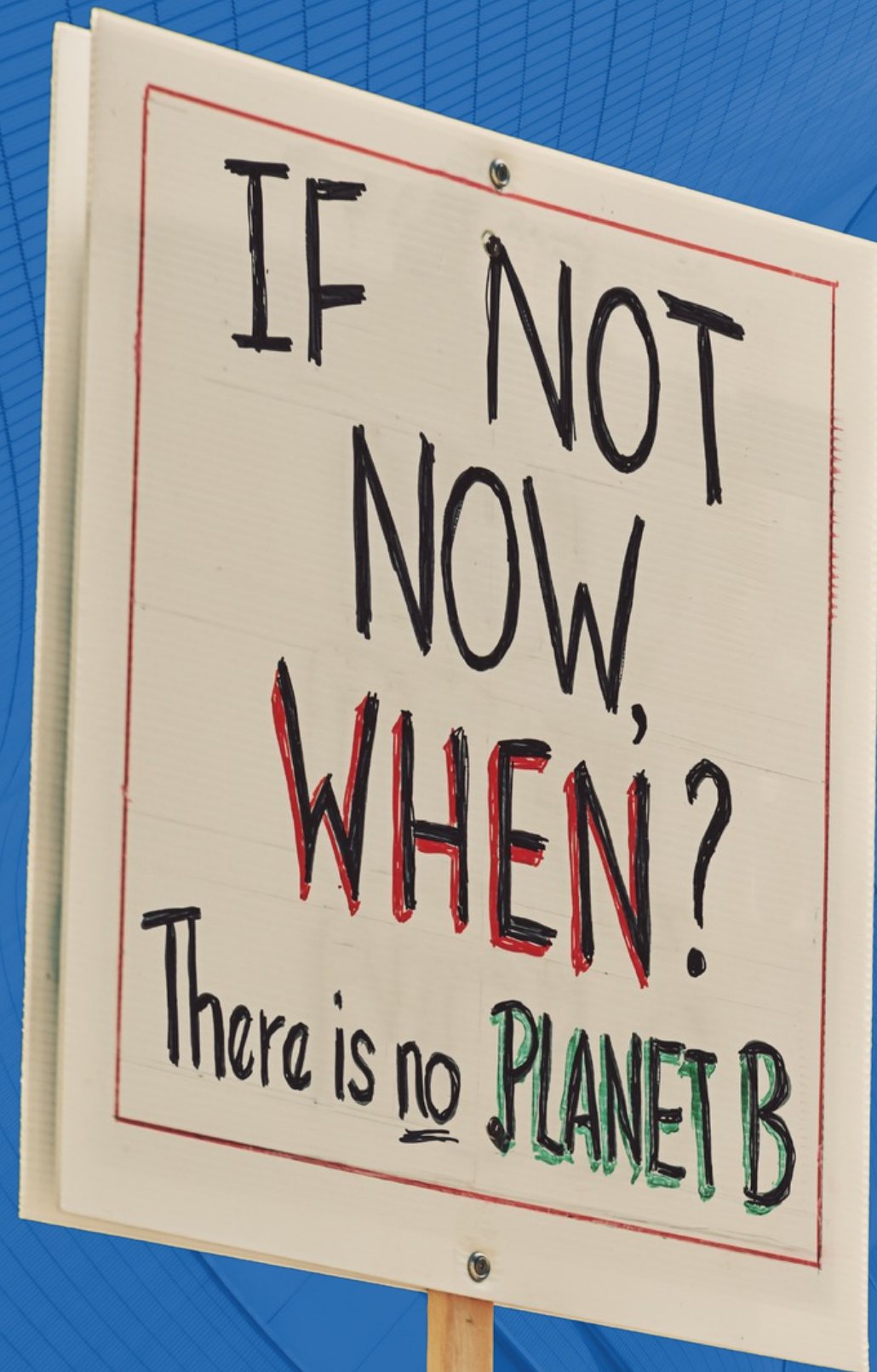


“The biggest challenge is the high technical/financial costs of genomic surveillance, need to train bioinformaticians in Africa, need to develop more user-friendly pipeline for genomic data analysis”

-Joseph Fokam, Cameroon



The time to act is now!



The time to act is now. The intersection of climate change and infectious diseases poses a formidable challenge to global health, and we cannot afford to delay our response. By taking these actions, we can work collectively to mitigate the impending public health crisis and build a more resilient, equitable world for all.



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