



Concept Note

Workshop on health co-benefits for advancing NDC implementation

23 September | 9:00–17:00

Venue: United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand

Organizers: The UNFCCC Secretariat and its Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization (WHO), NDC Partnership, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Background:

Following the submission of the latest round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), attention must now shift to implementation. As countries translate their NDCs into action, there is a growing need to prioritize measures that not only reduce emissions but also advance broader development objectives, including reducing health risks and inequalities. Such measures can deliver tangible benefits for people and communities while strengthening the case for investment.

In this context, climate mitigation offers an important opportunity to advance public health while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to the long-term health benefits of limiting climate change, substantial near-term health benefits can be gained as a knock-on effect of introducing climate mitigation policies, for example through reduced air pollution, healthier diets and increased active travel. Strengthening the evidence base on health co-benefits, including through indicators, impact assessment approaches, case studies and the exchange of experiences and lessons learnt, can help policymakers better understand the broader impacts of climate measures and enhance positive outcomes for people and communities. This evidence can also inform prioritization, help build political support and encourage investment, thereby supporting more informed and effective implementation of NDCs.

While evidence on health co-benefits is growing, experiences in considering such information in NDC implementation vary across countries. Countries also face practical challenges in translating evidence on health co-benefits into prioritized interventions, investment cases, financing strategies and implementation arrangements across climate, health and other relevant sectors. This workshop will provide a platform for exchanging experiences, lessons learnt and practical approaches for assessing and integrating health co-benefits into NDC implementation to support more people-centred, investable and effective climate action. The workshop is financially supported by the Wellcome Trust.

Targeted Audience:

Government officials involved in NDC implementation, as well as international organizations, development partners, technical experts working on climate and health.



Objectives:

The objective of the workshop is to strengthen countries' understanding and capacity to assess and integrate health co-benefits into NDC implementation and translate these into prioritized, implementable and investable actions through expert inputs, practical tools and country experiences.

Expected Outcomes:

- Strengthened understanding of the role of health co-benefits in advancing NDC implementation.
- Enhanced capacity to identify and quantify the health co-benefits of mitigation actions.
- Improved readiness to integrate health co-benefits into NDC implementation, including through strengthened evidence, institutional arrangements, and financing pathways.

Proposed Approach:

The workshop will adopt an interactive and practice-oriented format, combining expert inputs, country experiences, and facilitated discussions. The workshop will comprise three sessions as outlined below.

Session 1: Understanding Why Health Co-benefits Matter

This session will introduce the concept of health co-benefits and explore why they matter for advancing NDC implementation. Participants will examine how mitigation actions across key sectors can generate near-term health, economic and development benefits, and how making these benefits visible can strengthen policy prioritization, public support and ambition for climate action.

Session 2: Identifying and Quantifying Health Co-benefits of Mitigation Action

This session will introduce approaches and tools for identifying and quantifying health co-benefits. Participants will explore the opportunities and challenges of identifying health co-benefits in their own national context.

Session 3: Applying Evidence on Health Co-benefits to Accelerate NDC Implementation

This session will explore how evidence on identified and quantified health co-benefits can be used to accelerate NDC implementation, including strengthening investment cases and supporting access to climate finance. It will also examine key enabling factors for integrating health co-benefits into NDC implementation, such as strengthening institutional arrangements and embedding health considerations in relevant national plans.