

Informing Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies with Integrated Data

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Estimating impacts of climate change on people: HUMAN CLIMATE HORIZONS DATA PLATFORM

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Human Climate Horizons objective:

Providing multidimensional climate risk information of **projected impacts of climate change on people** and human development worldwide.

What could be our potential futures in scenarios of +1.8, +2.7 or higher temperature change?





About Human Climate Horizons

Partnership between UNDP and Climate Impact Lab

A living, modular, open digital public good Global coverage with over 24,000 subnational regions

3 emission scenarios

3 time horizons over the entire 21st century

- Expands our understanding of impacts of climate change on human welfare worldwide.
- Shows how our present choices on climate change can shape human development over the century.
- Equips policymakers with the means to understand the potential costs, and gather efforts around mitigation strategies, both locally and globally.
- Enhances agency and empowers individuals and communities to play a role in shaping the path forward.

Using big data analytical tools, they look for empirical evidence of how climatic conditions-such as abnormally warm summers-affect people and economies - harm human health; reduce economic activity and labor productivity; and have other effects.





They use these estimates to **quantify the cost of past changes in the climate—and simulate how those impacts are set to grow over time.** With adjustments for projected growth in income and population, future greenhouse gas emissions.

Note: The Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs) are part of a scenario framework established by the climate change research community to help researchers study plausible pathways for global development. Each of the five SSPs envisions a different baseline scenario for the economic future of the planet over the 21st century in the absence of climate impacts. The Human Climate Horizons platform presents information based on SSP3, which shows the highest population growth and the lowest global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of the five scenarios, and tracks most closely with recent historical observations. The population and income projections are based on data from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis SSP Database.

Scientists comb through terabytes of historical weather (temperature, tidal gauges), social, population, and economic data from around the world.

About HCH data



Available scenarios

Users can explore median projections along 2 RCPs for temperature (4.5 and 8.5) and 3 SSP pathways for SLR:

- SSP1-2.6: where global CO2 emissions are cut severely, reaching net-zero after 2050, and the average global temperature rise1.8°C by the end of the century.
- SSP2-4.5: where emissions hover around current levels before starting to fall mid-century but do not reach netzero by 2100, and temperatures rise 2.7°C by the end of the century.
- SSP5-8.5: where current CO2 emissions levels roughly double by 2050; temperatures rise 4.4°C by the end of the century.







HCH 1.0

Temperature impacts





Mortality impact

Definition: projected additional deaths due to future climate change per 100k population



CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON MORTALITY Country-level Example: Iran







Horizon: mid-century outlook Scenario: RCP 8.5 scenario Projected outcome: 21 more deaths per 100,000 people.

Can also be observed: different realities within the country with some parts of the country experiencing sharp rise in mortality rates while others may see a decline.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON MORTALITY

Country-level Example: Bangladesh/Dhaka





Horizon: End of century
Scenario: RCP 8.5 (very high emissions)
Outcome: Projected additional 132 deaths each year by 2100 compared to a future with

no climate change.

Comparison: This figure is 2x Bangladesh's death rate from all cancers each year and 9x greater than the rate of road traffic fatalities.





Climate change will be a significant driver of inequalities worldwide



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Labour productivity impact

Definition: change in annual hours worked per worker in high and low risk sectors

Note: High risk sectors include agriculture, construction, mining, manufacturing.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON LABOR PRODUCTIVITY Country-level Example: India





Change in annual hours worked per worker



Horizon: End of century
Scenario: RCP 8.5 (very high emissions)
Outcome: India is projected to witness 118 days each year with temperatures surpassing 35 degrees Celsius.
This could lead to a significant reduction in productive working hours

(-61.6 per worker per year), with exposure to extreme heat.

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HCH 2.0

Sea level rise impacts

Impacts on coastal communities include the threat of permanent inundation of low lying land adjacent to the ocean. The data here maps those sea level rise projections to a satellite-based elevation dataset to explore which places may be submerged in the absence of shoreline defenses.





Sea level rise hazard

Definition: change in cm in projected SLR

Note: The sea level rise projections are sourced directly from the IPCC, then aggregated to more than 5000 subnational coastal regions worldwide.





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Share of region under mean sea level (%)





Land inundation impact

- Share of region under mean sea level (%)
- Area under mean sea level (km2)

Definition: percent of region's land or total square kilometers of land projected to be permanently inundated by rising seas, relative to future of no climate change. From this modeling, we can see the places most at risk of disappearing due to long-term sea level rise.



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Plot graphs on HCH compare impacts to each of coastal countries and territories -Comparing impacts to each of these coastal countries and territories highlights those at highest risks of permanent inundation.

SIDS like the Maldives, are projected to lose more than 10% of its territory by mid-century (current emissions trajectory, SSP2-4.5).











Population flood exposure impact

- Share of population living in the 1-in-20 floodplain

Definition: percent of region's population living in the median projected 1-in-20 floodplain to be permanently flooded by rising seas, relative to modeled future with no climate change.



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Explore

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Higher sea levels => giving the storm surge caused by hurricanes and cyclones a higher starting point.

This allows that surge to push further inland.

The 20 year floodplain is modeled on top of the current mapping of where people live to enable us to see how much more of the population is exposed to flood risk.

Key findings: Local

the top 10 cities most severely affected by the percentage increase in population exposed to expanding flood areas (intermediate scenario, SSP2-4.5)



Hundreds of highly populated cities will be exposed to increased flood risk



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Temperature



Hazard Data

Average Annual Temperature No data
 Median projection





Key findings: Global

Population exposed to expanded flood areas Under different scenarios



Population exposed to flood risk (millions)







GLOBAL



Example:

Scenario: SSP5-8.5 (very high emissions)

Horizon: end of the century

Outcome: 1.2% of global population living in floodplain areas

(If we assume the same amount of global population, that's 97.6 million people)



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Example:

Scenario: SSP5-2.6 (Climate action to put the world on course for low emissions and limit warming to 2°C)

Horizon: end of the century

Outcome: reduces the population at risk to 0.73% of global population living in floodplain areas

(i.e. 38 million people saved from the exposure)



Thank you!

horizons.hdr.undp.org





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ENERGY IMPACT

Between countries



Rising temperatures will unequally impact energy consumption across locations and fuel types (example: RCP 4.5 moderate emissions trajectory). **HCH allows exploration within or**



Impacts on agriculture

The next release expected in late 2024, will cover six crops including cassava, corn, rice, soy, sorghum, and wheat.

The analysis of agriculture's impact on climate change studies how seasonal temperature trends and rainfall patterns will impact production of the six staple crops that comprise ~70% of the world's crop calories: cassava, corn, rice, soy, sorghum, and wheat.

The relationship between daily conditions and yields is unique to each of the six crops modeled in this analysis and reflects complex dynamics. For instance, excess precipitation can be as damaging as too little, resulting in erosion, flooding, and decreased soil quality. Irrigation is taken into account, along with farmers' ability to switch varieties of crops as a means of adjusting to trends like longer growing seasons or adopt better equipment and technologies. Even with these protective measures, every region of the world is projected in 2050 to experience a net decrease in total calories produced across staple crops.

In terms of production markets (\$), these losses are greatest in the world's top-producing breadbaskets, such as the United States, China, Brazil, and Russia. The agricultural sector has thrived in these countries under optimal, moderate climate conditions. However, they are not well-prepared for climate change. Under most emissions pathways, climate change also generates real risk to global food security, including for regions engaged in farming at a subsistence level. Across the African continent, for example, climate change damages in the agricultural sector equate to a significant share of GDP.





A part of new generation of innovative measurements:

Beyond income

people-centered

Beyond averages

highly-disaggregated

Beyond today

short, medium and long term projections

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON MORTALITY Country-level Example: Malaysia





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