

Example Memo from GCHA on the Call to Action for Life-Course Immunization

There is a strategic case for climate and health groups to sign the WFPHA Life Course Immunization memo. While the memo does not explicitly reference climate change, it promotes lifelong immunization as a foundation of resilient and equitable health systems, creating a strong entry point for climate-health framing.

The climate dimension, though indirect, is significant. Climate change is expanding the range and intensity of infectious diseases, including vector-borne and climate-sensitive illnesses. Simultaneously, climate shocks like extreme heat, floods, and displacement are increasingly straining health systems. Vaccination strengthens population immunity and reduces preventable disease burdens, thereby enhancing system resilience during climate-related emergencies. Immunization can therefore be framed as a practical climate adaptation measure and integrated into National Adaptation Plans and broader health resilience strategies.

For climate and health groups, the opportunity lies not simply in endorsing vaccination in general, but in bringing a clear climate lens to the endorsement. Immunization can be positioned as essential preparedness in a world of rising temperatures, shifting disease patterns, and widening health inequities thereby linking disease prevention directly to climate resilience and health justice.

Memo provided by Shweta Narayan, Global Climate Health Alliance.