



## Research on climate change and health in India: a priority setting exercise – August 2024

### FACTS:

- Climate change exacerbates air pollution, which is a major health concern in India. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution contributes to an estimated 1.67 million premature deaths in India annually.
- The frequency and intensity of heatwaves in India have increased over the past few decades, leading to higher mortality and morbidity. For example, the 2015 heatwave resulted in over 2,500 deaths across the country.

### PROJECT CYCLE: 2024

### SUPPORTERS:

The George Institute for Global Health

### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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### BACKGROUND:

- Climate change is the greatest health and humanitarian crisis the world has ever seen.
- India is the 7th most affected country by climate change worldwide. The effects are already evident, as extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense, resulting in negative health impacts.
- While climate and health is an increasingly studied topic, there has yet to be a formal research priority-setting exercise conducted in India.

### AIM:

To identify priority research questions on climate change and health in India for the following domains:

- Impact of climate change on health and disease.
- Interventions to protect health from climate change.
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts which target health risks specifically or as co-benefits.
- Policy, governance, and decision-making tools.
- Adaptation or development of tools and frameworks for any of the domains listed above.

### METHODS:

We are employing a rapid, low-cost yet inclusive approach in two phases:

- Phase I: We will conduct a systematic mapping of literature on climate change and health, complemented by an online survey to gather additional research questions. These questions will be synthesised into a comprehensive long list.
- Phase II: We will carry out an online survey to rate and prioritise the questions, ultimately developing a consensus list of priority research questions.

### IMPACT

- The research findings will identify priority areas in climate change and health as determined by the combined perspectives of the public, researchers, and healthcare workers.
- The project will identify gaps between current research and the priorities perceived by the community, helping to align future efforts.
- The study will benefit the scientific and medical community in India by providing a prioritised list of research questions and areas of focus.

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