



- **Natural Disasters**

- Globally, **the number of reported weather-related natural disasters has more than tripled since the 1960s**. Every year, these disasters result in over 60,000 deaths, mainly in developing countries.¹
- Rising temperatures and variable precipitation are likely to **decrease the production of staple foods in many of the poorest regions**. This will **increase the prevalence of malnutrition and undernutrition**, which currently cause 3.1 million deaths every year.¹
- **More than half of the world's population lives within 60 km of the sea**. Increased storms and rising sea levels result in destroyed infrastructure, displacement, and physical and psychological disease.¹



- **Social and Economic Implications**

- Significant increases in food prices due to changes in agriculture and instability from severe weather events **will lead to job and economic insecurity**.²
- **Violence increases when economic and livelihood security decrease**. Disasters have been shown to result in spikes in physical and sexual violence against women and girls.²

- **Disproportionate Effects on Vulnerable Populations**

- People in developing countries are **more than 20 times as likely to be affected by climate-related disasters** as those in the developed world.⁴
- Scientists expect the US to see overall increases in precipitation, including more intense hurricanes and heavy rainfall. Low-income American families, communities of color, immigrants, and native American communities are often the least able to respond to and recover from these environmental hazards.⁴
- **Lower-income communities continue to face the decision of choosing industrial development and jobs over their health**—a trade-off that ends up ruining a community's potential for prosperity, particularly as climate change increases pressures and health risks.³

- **Health and Disease**

- **Extreme high air temperatures raise levels of ozone and other pollutants** and contribute directly to deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory disease, as can pollen or other aeroallergens which worsen in heat, particularly among elderly people.¹
- Between 2030 and 2050, **climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress**.¹

- **Global Security**

- According to a report by a panel of retired US generals and admirals, **climate change acts as a “threat multiplier for instability”** in the most volatile regions of the world.⁴
- **By 2025, 40% of the world's population will be living in countries experiencing significant water shortages** which in turn could worsen existing tensions over water in conflict-affected regions like the Middle East.⁴



Sources:

1. WHO Media Centre, “Climate Change and Health.”
2. NAACP, “Climate Justice Toolkit.”
3. Robert J. Bullard, “Environmental Blackmail in Minority Communities.”
4. Oxfam, “Climate Change Fact Sheet,” April 2010.