

# The Climate Emergency and Our Planetary Health

## Decolonization, Justice, and Peace

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Associate Professor of Global and Planetary Health



# Planetary Health





Our patients? **PEOPLE** and **PLANET**

# The New Hippocratic Oath




THE LANCET

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## A pledge for planetary health to unite health professionals in the Anthropocene

[Katharina-Jacqueline Wabnitz](#)  [Sabine Gabrysch](#)

[Renzo Guinto](#) [Andy Haines](#) [Martin Herrmann](#)

[Courtney Howard](#) [Teddie Potter](#) [Susan L Prescott](#)

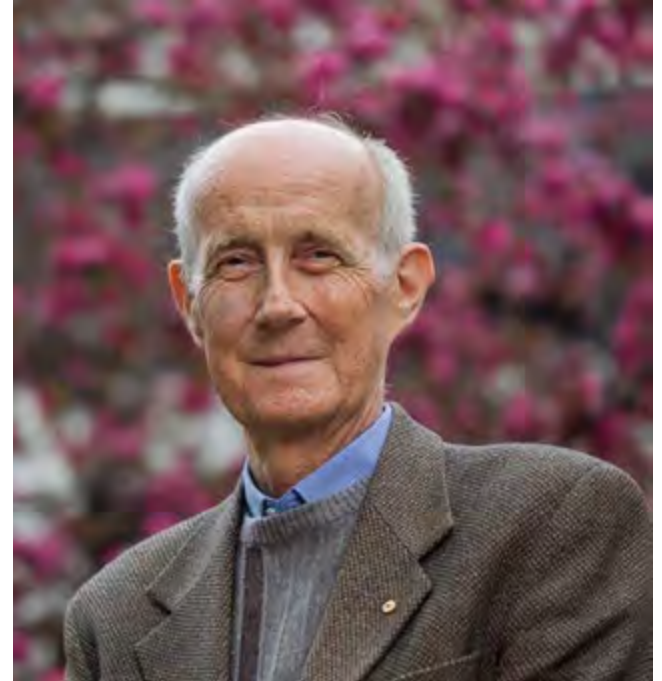
[Nicole Redvers](#) [Show less](#)

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# Planetary Health: A Radical Extension

“The health sector must lift its gaze to bigger, ecological horizons. This will require a **radical extension of the public health agenda**, new forms of professional training in environmental health, a preparedness to base policy advice upon predictions and best guesses (as opposed to empirical data), and an **ability to collaborate with unfamiliar disciplines** (e.g. climatology and ecology).”



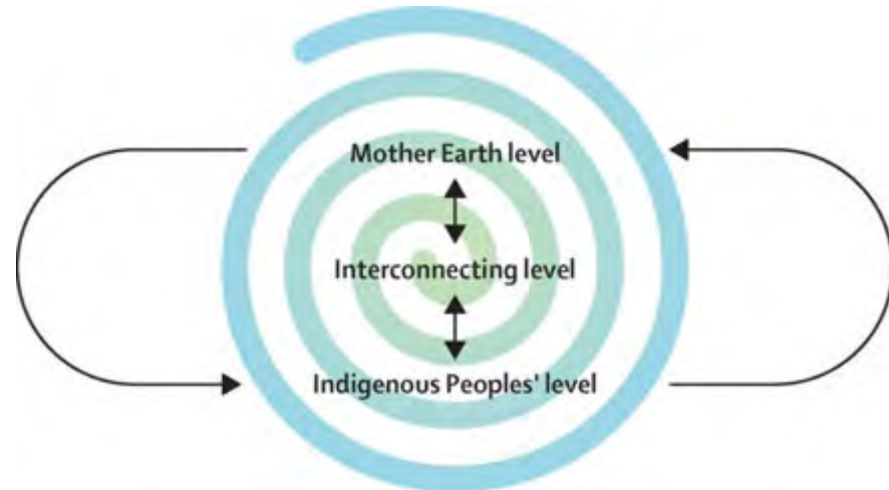
**Anthony McMichael**  
Climate and Health Pioneer

# Planetary Health: Not a Novel Invention

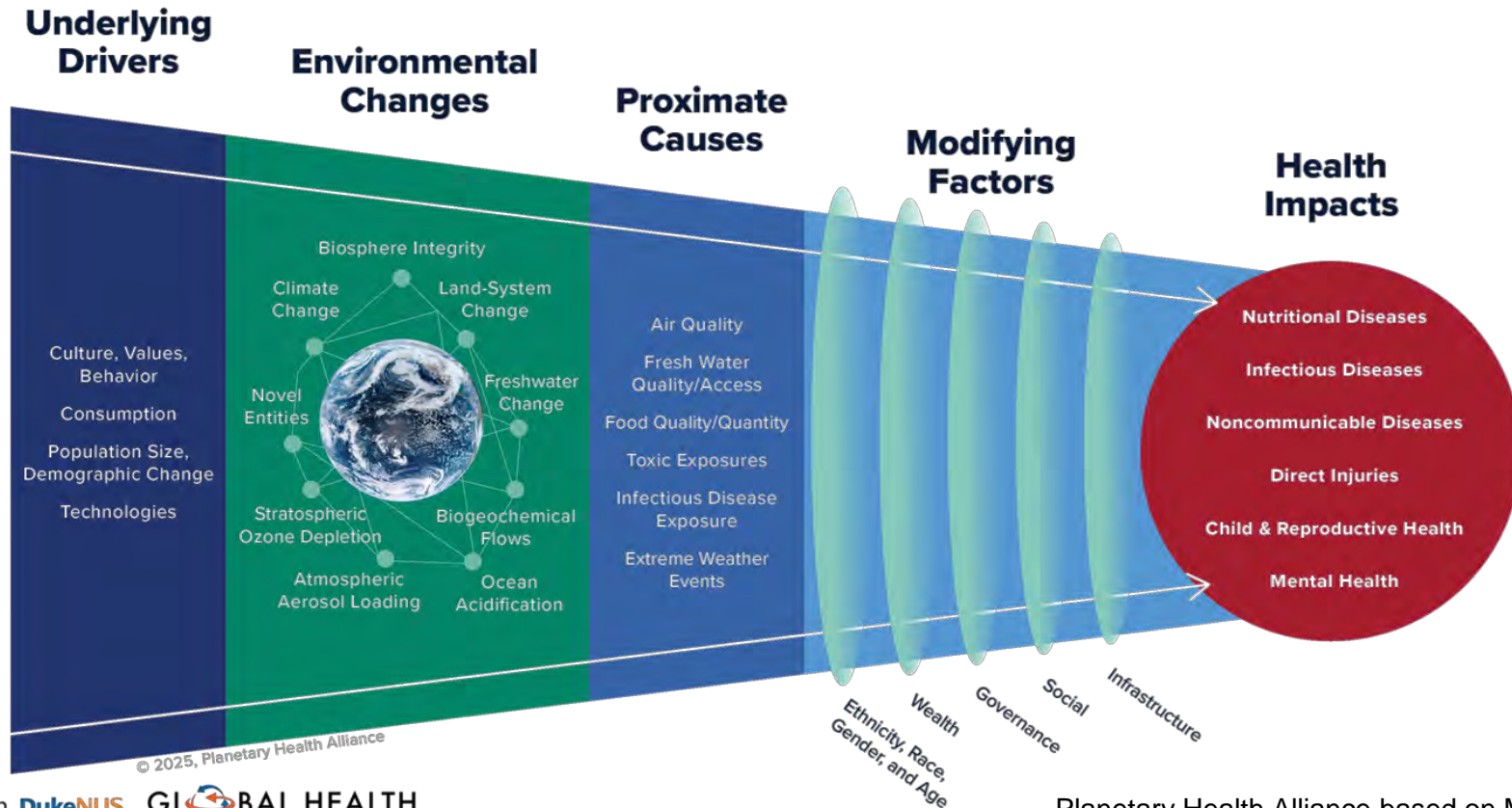


“The Earth does not belong to man; man belongs to Earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.”

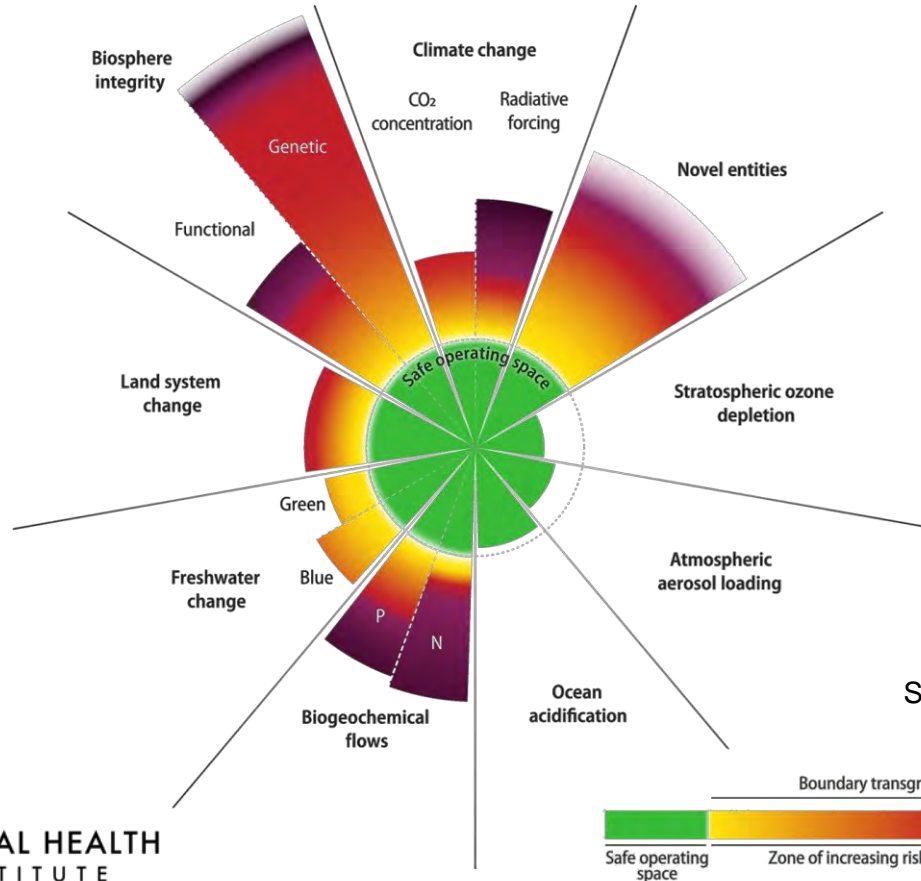
Chief Seattle



# Planetary Health in the Anthropocene



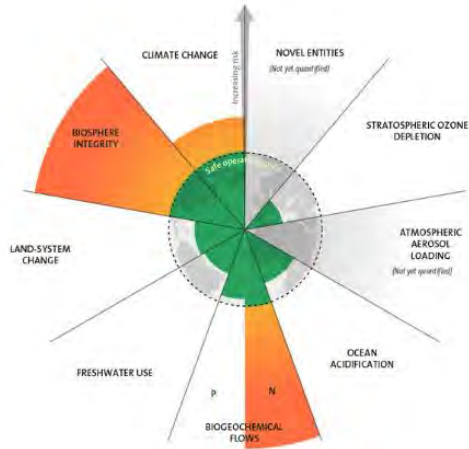
# Planetary Boundaries



Stockholm Resilience Centre, 2023

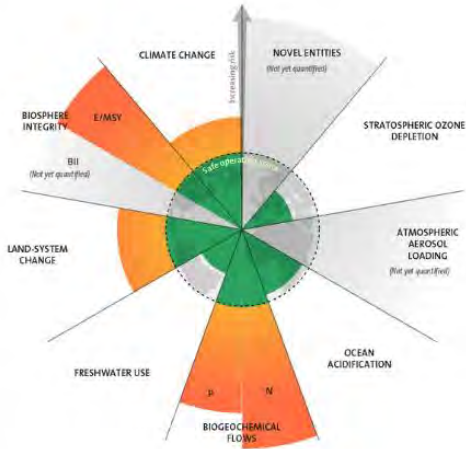
# Planetary Boundaries

2009



7 boundaries assessed,  
3 crossed

2015



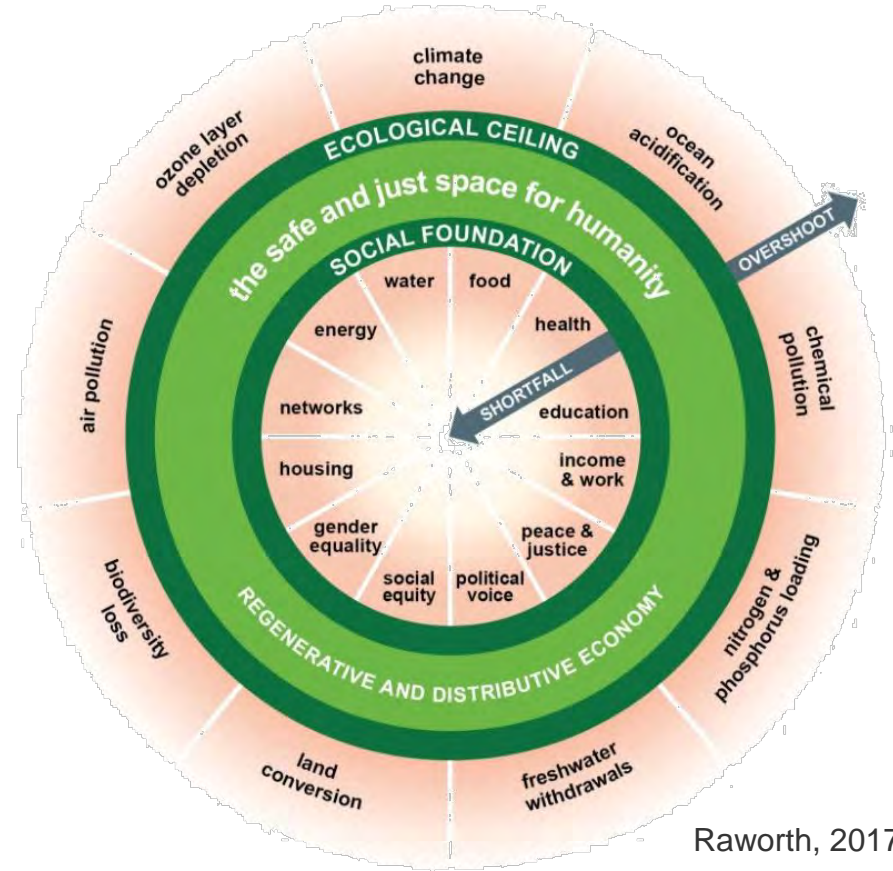
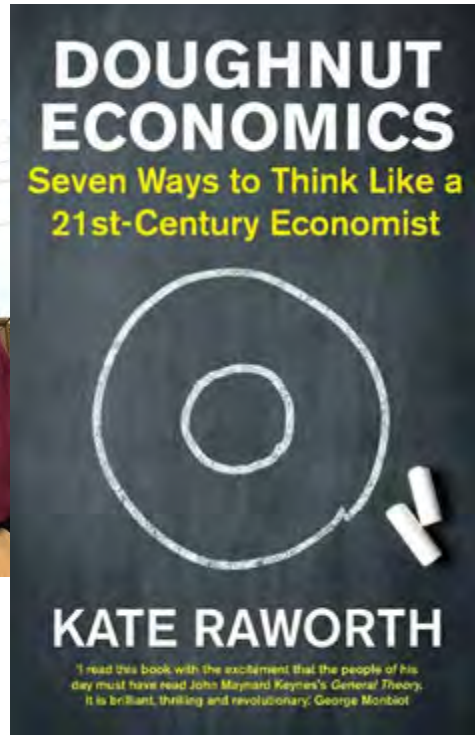
7 boundaries assessed,  
4 crossed

2023



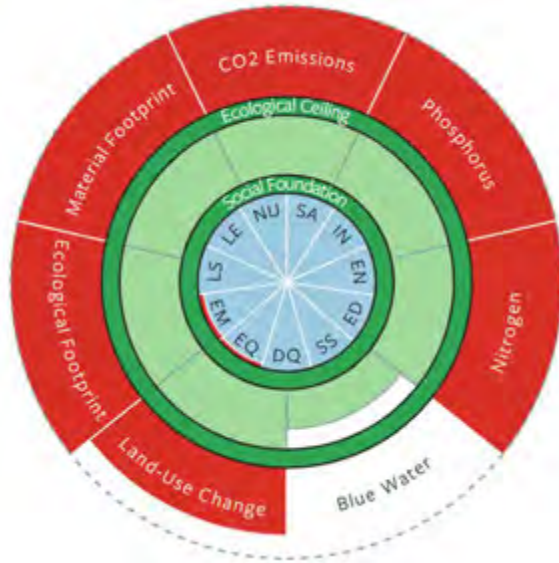
9 boundaries assessed,  
6 crossed

# Doughnut Economy

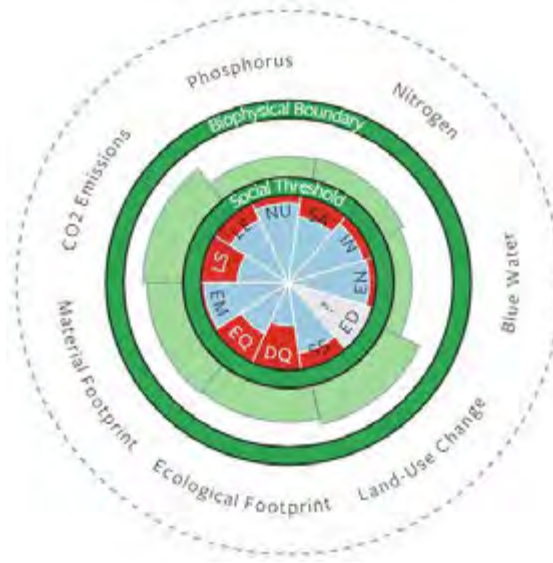


Raworth, 2017

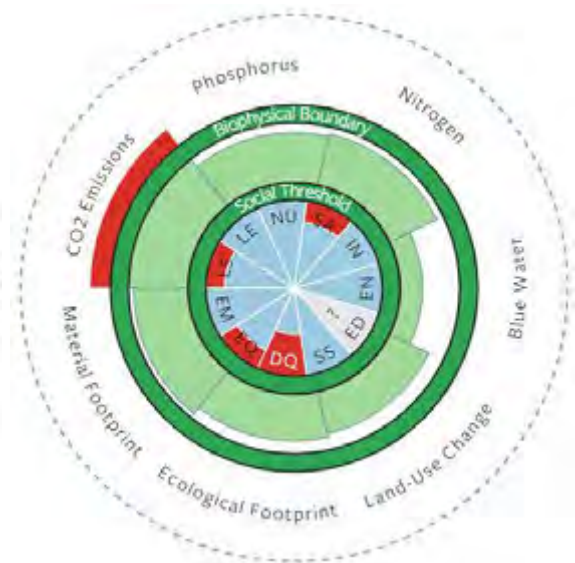
# A Good Life For All Within Planetary Boundaries



Canada

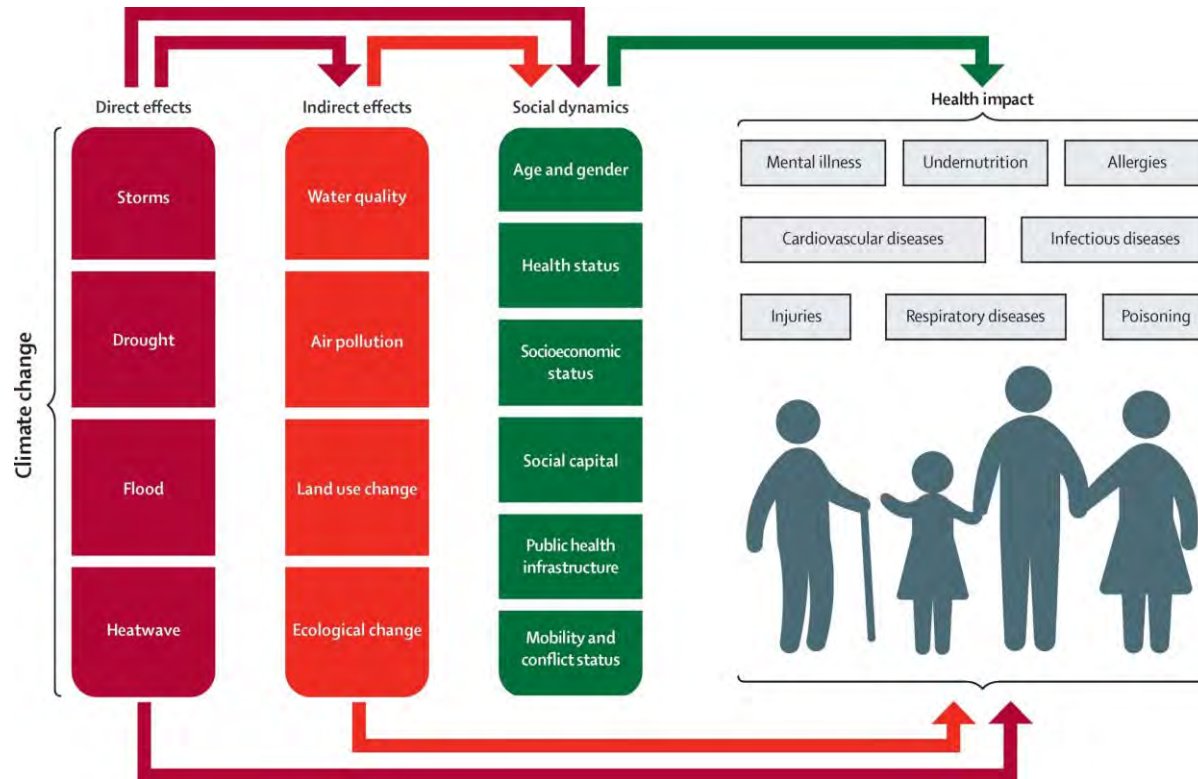


Philippines

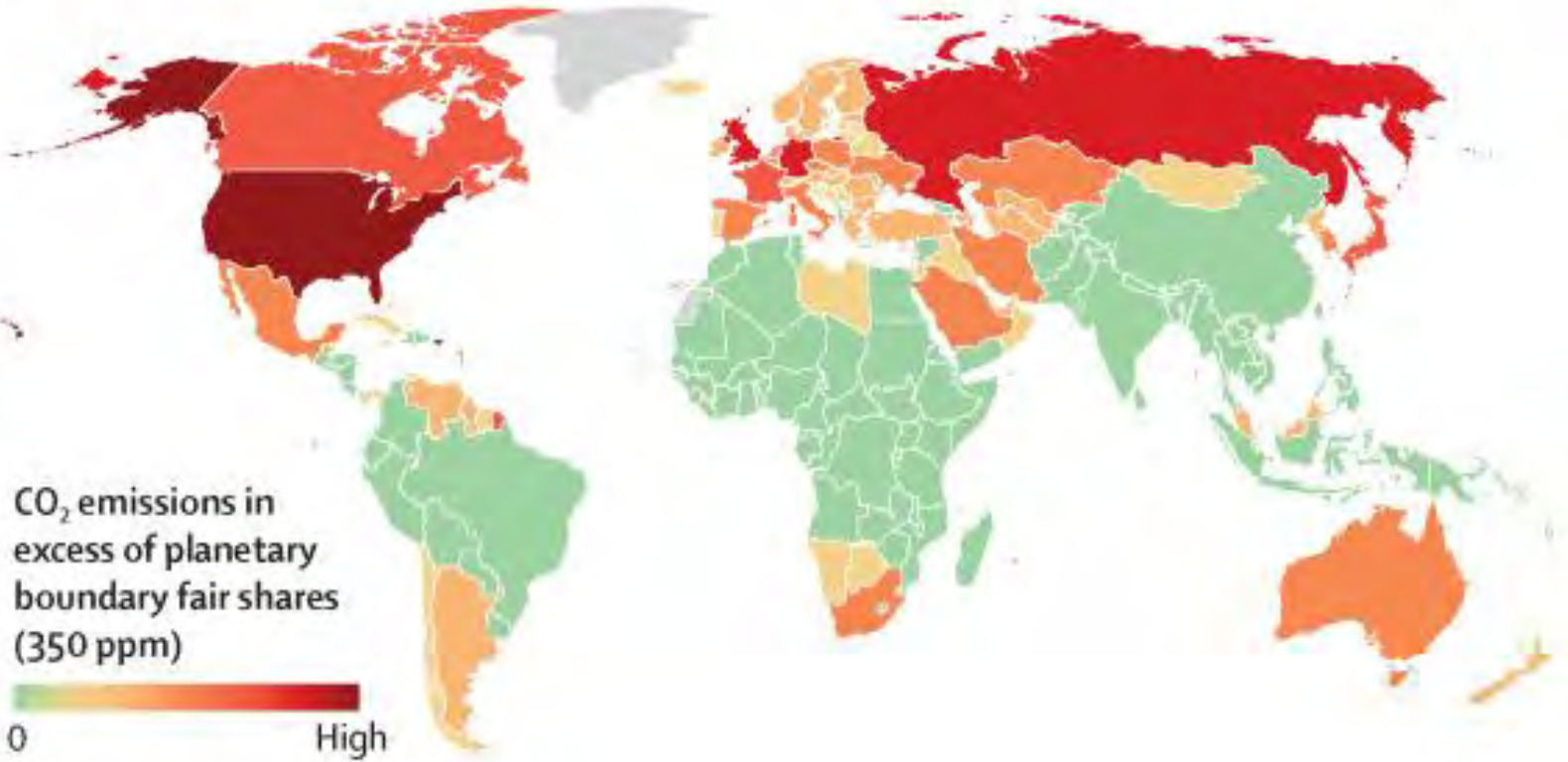


Vietnam

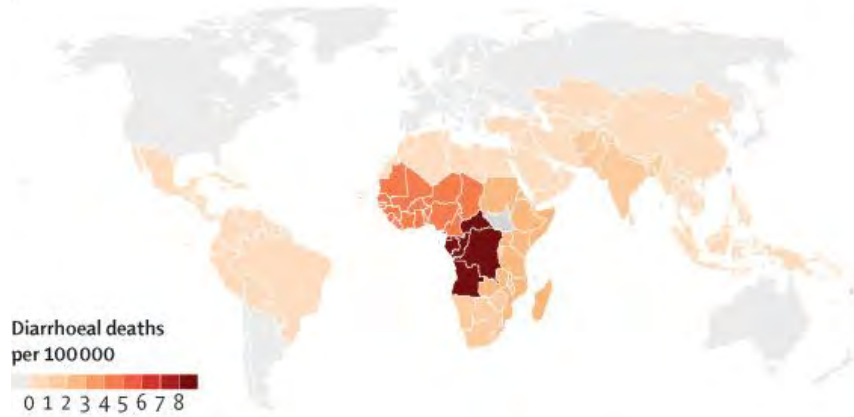
# Climate Change and Human Health



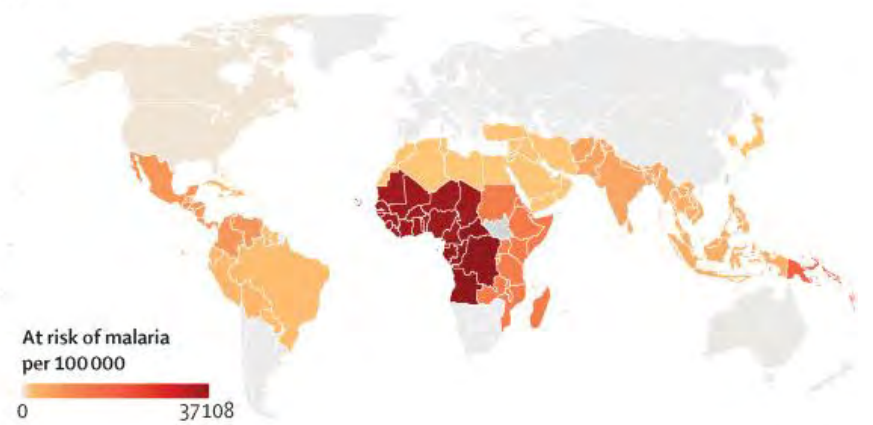
A



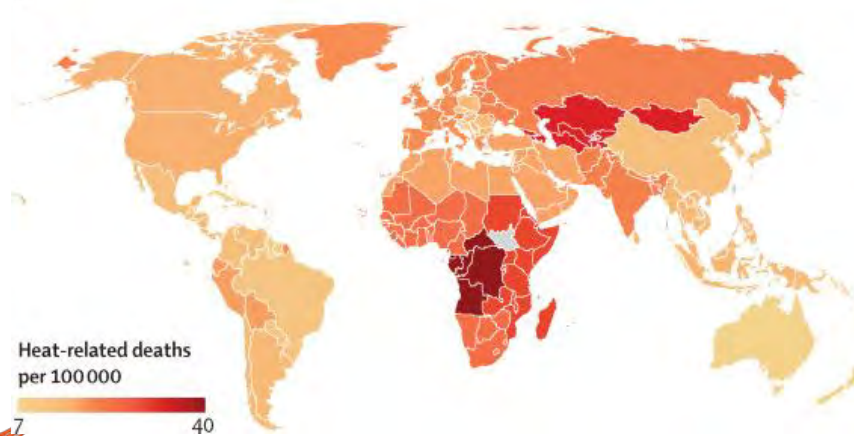
B



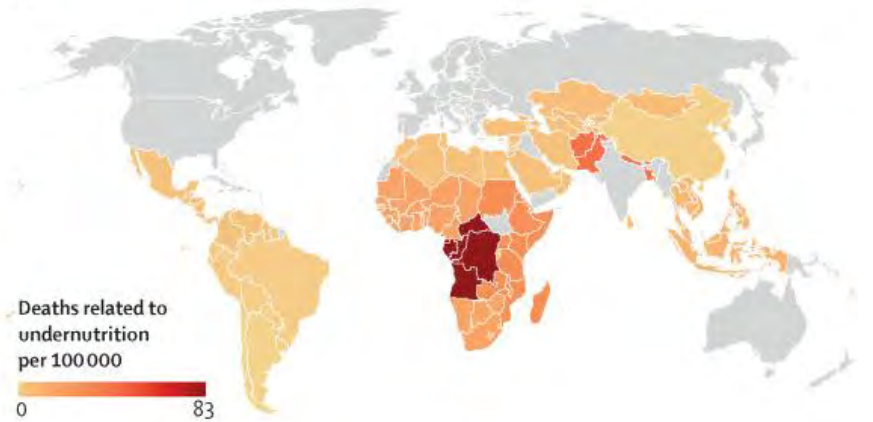
C



D



E



# Climate Change and Mental Health



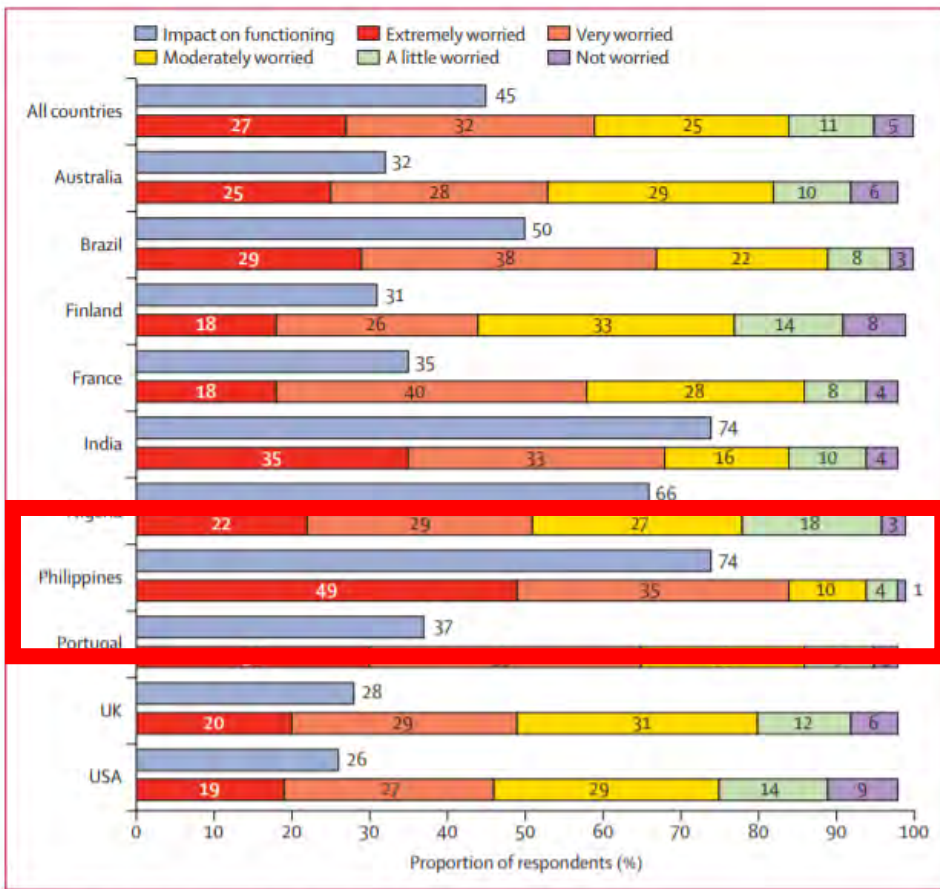


Figure 1: Worry about climate change and impact on functioning

The graph shows the proportion of the sample reporting a negative impact on functioning from their feelings about climate change and various levels of worry about climate change. Data are shown for the whole sample (n=10 000) and by country (n=1000 per country)

Hickman, et al., 2021

## An agenda for climate change and mental health in the Philippines

Renzo R Guinto Julius Cesar P Alejandre Marianne K Bongcac Johnrev Guillaran Sena S Salcedo   
Jun Angelo Sunglao

Short communication

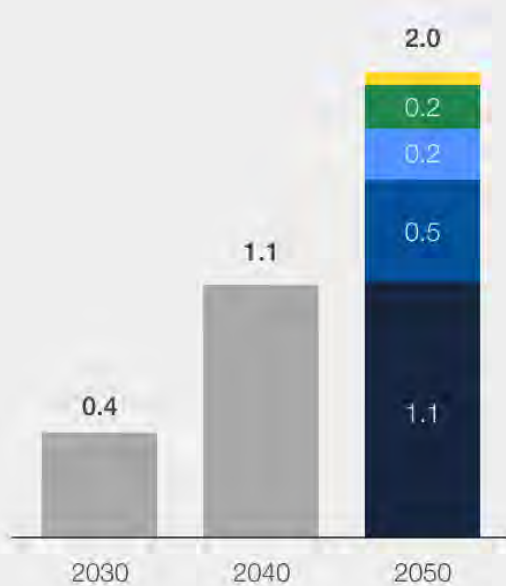
### Climate anxiety in the Philippines: Current situation, potential pathways, and ways forward

John Jamir Benzon R. Aruta , Renzo R. Guinto

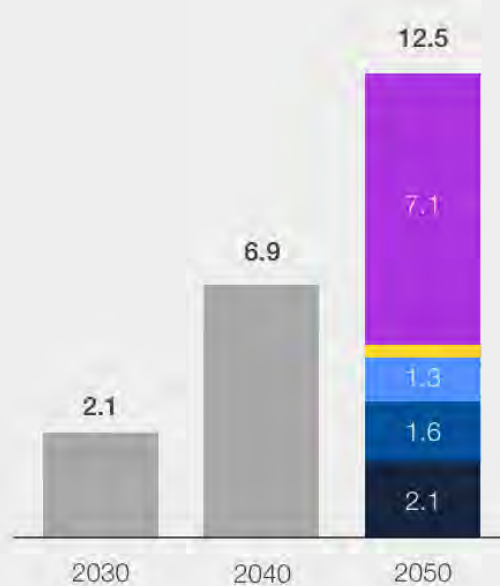


FIGURE 7 | Projection of health outcomes triggered by climate events, cumulative

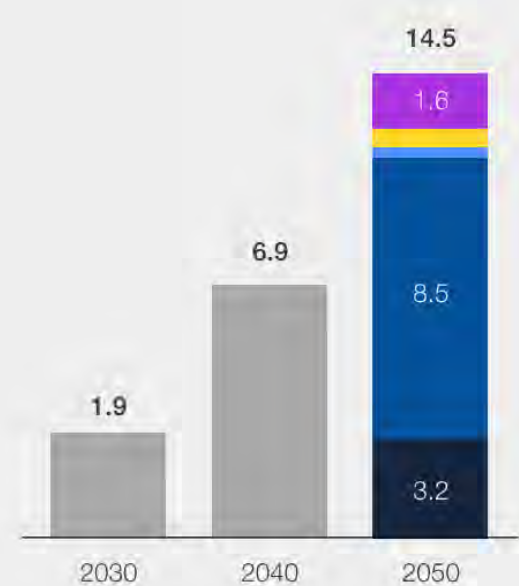
Health impact billions, DALY



Economic impact \$, trillions



Deaths millions



Droughts
  Floods
  Wildfires
  Sea level rise
  Tropical storms
  Heat waves
  Total

# Trumpian Assault on Planetary Health

## Health

- Withdrawal from WHO (and Pandemic Treaty)
- Abandonment of PEPFAR and other GH programs

## Climate

- Withdrawal from Paris Agreement
- Reversal of domestic climate policies

## Development

- End of USAID
- Tariff wars – even for essential commodities

## DEI/Decolonization

- Attack on DEI programs
- Anti-immigrant policies

## Peace

- Continued dehumanization in Gaza
- Turning its back on Ukraine

# US Funding for Planetary Health

## NIH Ends Future Funding to Study the Health Effects of Climate Change

It's unclear whether the guidance will impact active grants, but it appears to halt opportunities for future studies. One climate health expert said the directive would have a "devastating" impact on much-needed research.

Map of Currently Funded NIH CCH Exploratory Research Centers



## Exclusive: NIH to suspend funds for research abroad as it overhauls policy

Move by US biomedical agency threatens thousands of projects on infectious diseases, cancer and more.



# Are we ready to build health systems



that consider the climate?

(Mayhew, et al., 2013)



## Climate-Smart Healthcare

Low-Carbon and Resilience  
Strategies for the Health Sector



# ATACH

Alliance for Transformative  
Action on Climate and Health  
WHO hosted network

### Sustainability

Lifestyle disease prevention  
Care closer to home  
Low VOC materials  
Local food suppliers  
Waste recycling  
Air quality

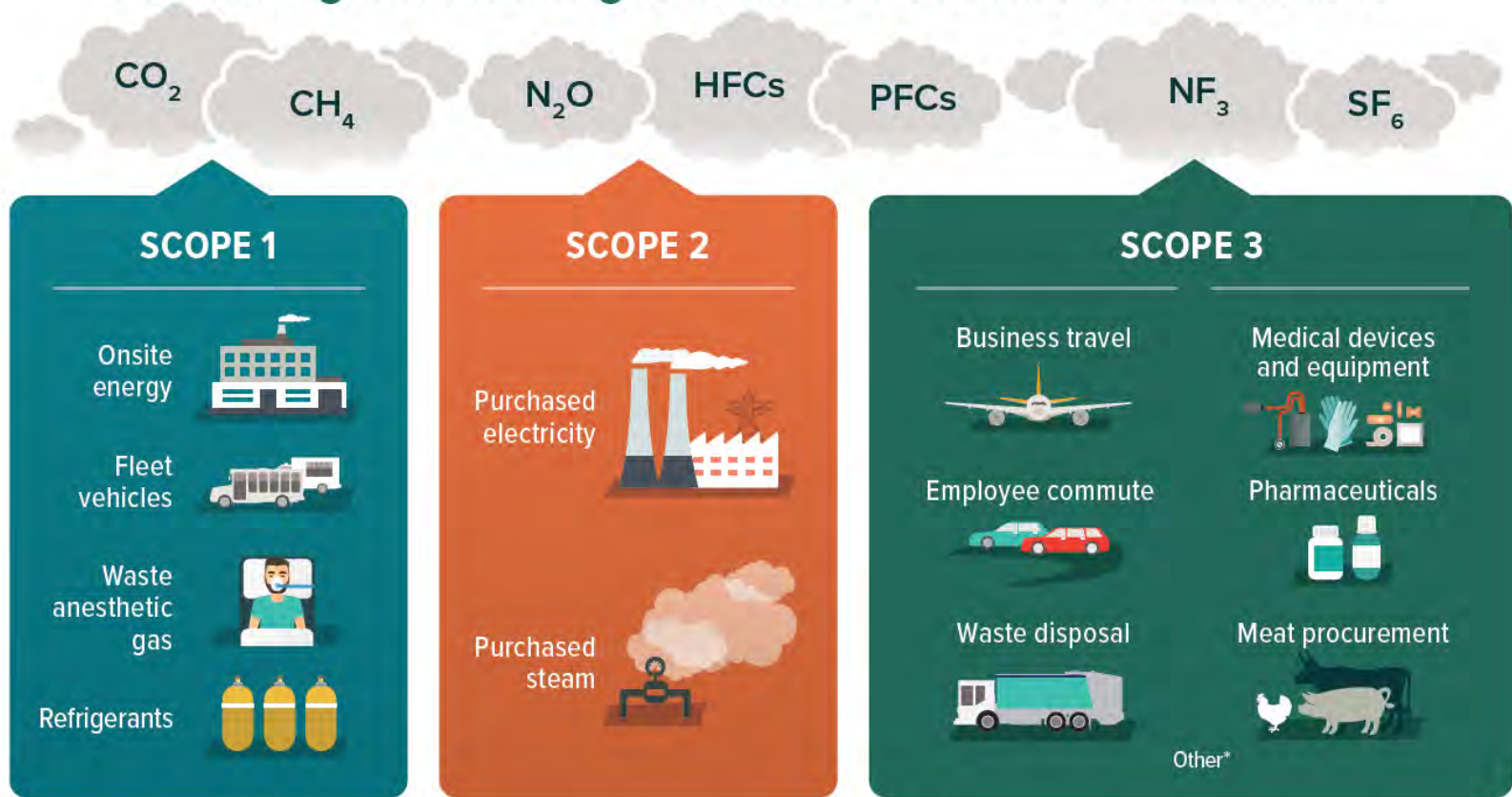
### Sustainability and Resilience

Health system strengthening  
Universal health coverage  
Energy, water efficiency  
Daylighting  
Natural ventilation  
Rainwater capture  
Solar shading

### Resilience

Risk and disaster preparedness  
and planning  
Climate related disease  
monitoring  
Flood barriers  
Elevation  
Backup generators

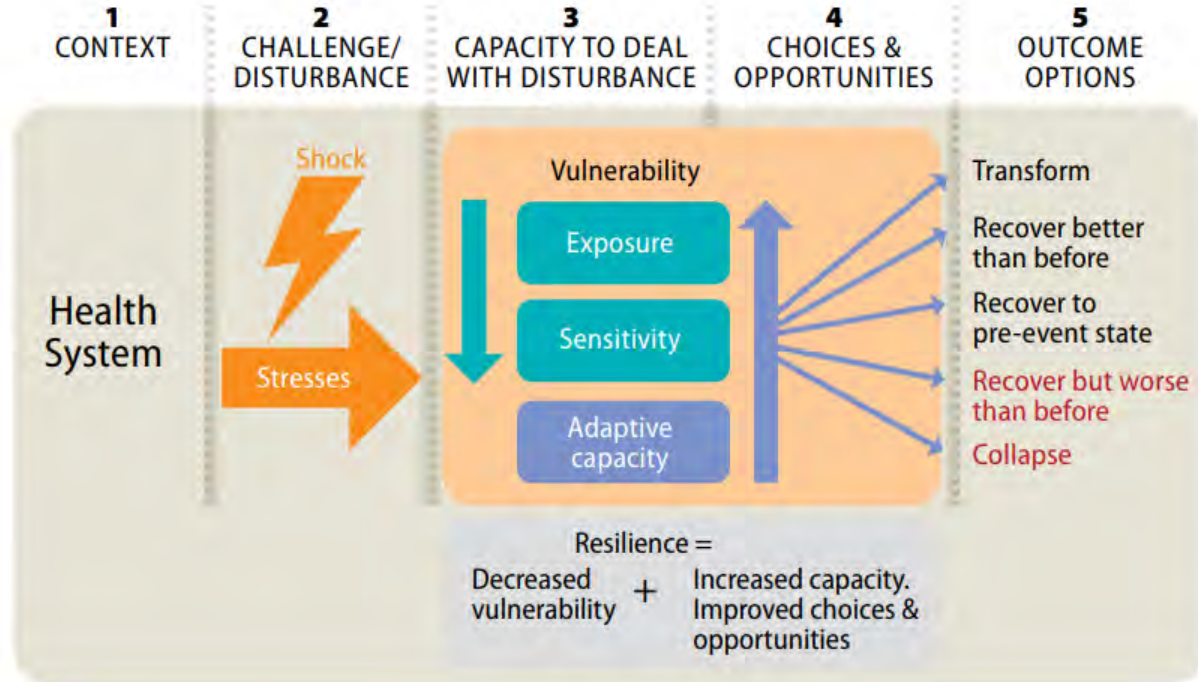
# Common greenhouse gas emission sources in health care



Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>)

\*Scope 3 other: These are the most common emissions for health care, but there are other relevant categories in Scope 3. To review all 15 categories covered in Scope 3, visit the [GHG Protocol Scope 3 Guidance](#).

# Climate-Resilient Health Systems



# Adaptation Priorities | Adaptation strategy identified across each sector, with five common strategies observed across outcomes

				
<b>Agriculture and Fisheries/ Food Security</b>	<b>Water Resource</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Ecosystems and Biodiversity</b>	<b>Cultural Heritage &amp; Population Displacement</b>
Securing Food Supply: Nurture Nature, Sustain Livelihoods	Safeguard Water Security: Secure and Sanitary Water For All	Fortify Health Systems: Adaptive Universal Healthcare for all Filipinos	Safeguard Biodiversity: Restore Natural Assets	Protecting Communities: Re-integration for Displaced Filipinos

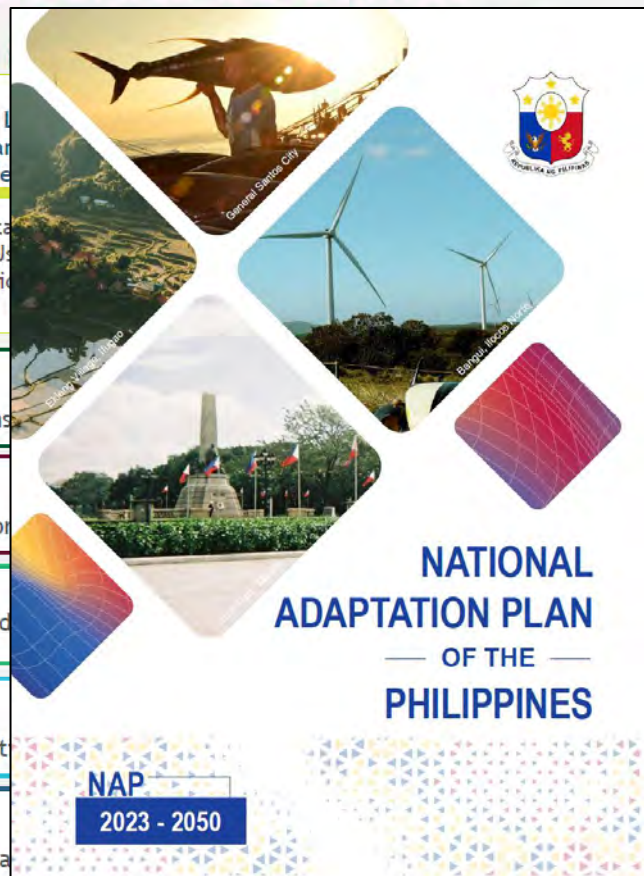
**STRENGTHEN INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE**  
Reinforcing the resilience of critical infrastructure in various sectors to withstand adverse impacts and disruptions

**SAFEGUARD LIVELIHOODS WITH SOCIAL PROTECTION & REGULATIONS**  
Safeguarding livelihoods of populations from the impacts of climate change through social safety nets and appropriate regulations

**EMPOWER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & COMMUNITIES**  
Enabling local governments and communities to act on adaptation solutions by mainstreaming understanding of adaptation and increased capacity

**MAINSTREAM INTEGRATED ADAPTATION GOVERNANCE**  
Fostering coordinated collaboration among stakeholders, policymakers, and institutions across horizontal and vertical levels

**SCALE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**  
Prioritizing use of nature-based solutions where possible to drive climate resilience and protect vulnerable populations



**NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN**  
— OF THE —  
**PHILIPPINES**

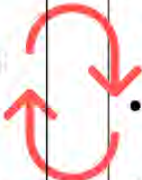
**NAP**  
2023 - 2050

## Local Climate Change Action Plan

- Limited health sector participation
- Health section is limited and merely described the present situation
- Health interventions are not identified

## Local Investment Plan for Health

- Limited input from other sectors (including environment)
- Climate and environment are mentioned in passing
- No climate lens in proposed investments



# Building climate-resilient local health systems in the Philippines



St. Luke's  
Medical Center  
College of Medicine  
William H. Quasha Memorial



Institute for  
Global Health  
Sciences



Adaptation Research Alliance



the Interacademy partnership



## AJUY, ILOILO

 53,462 (2020 census)


 Intense floods, sea level rise

 Water-borne diseases

## ALABAT, QUEZON

 15,936 (2020 census)

 Floods, poor water quality

 Water-borne diseases



## Local Climate Change & Health Assessment Report

February 2024

Alabat, Quezon



Powered by  
Adaptation Research Alliance  
&  
Interacademy Partnership



# Are we ready to build **systems for health**



that consider the climate?

(Mayhew, et al., 2013)

# Loss and Damage Fund – Reparations?

## Philippines to host 'loss and damage' fund board

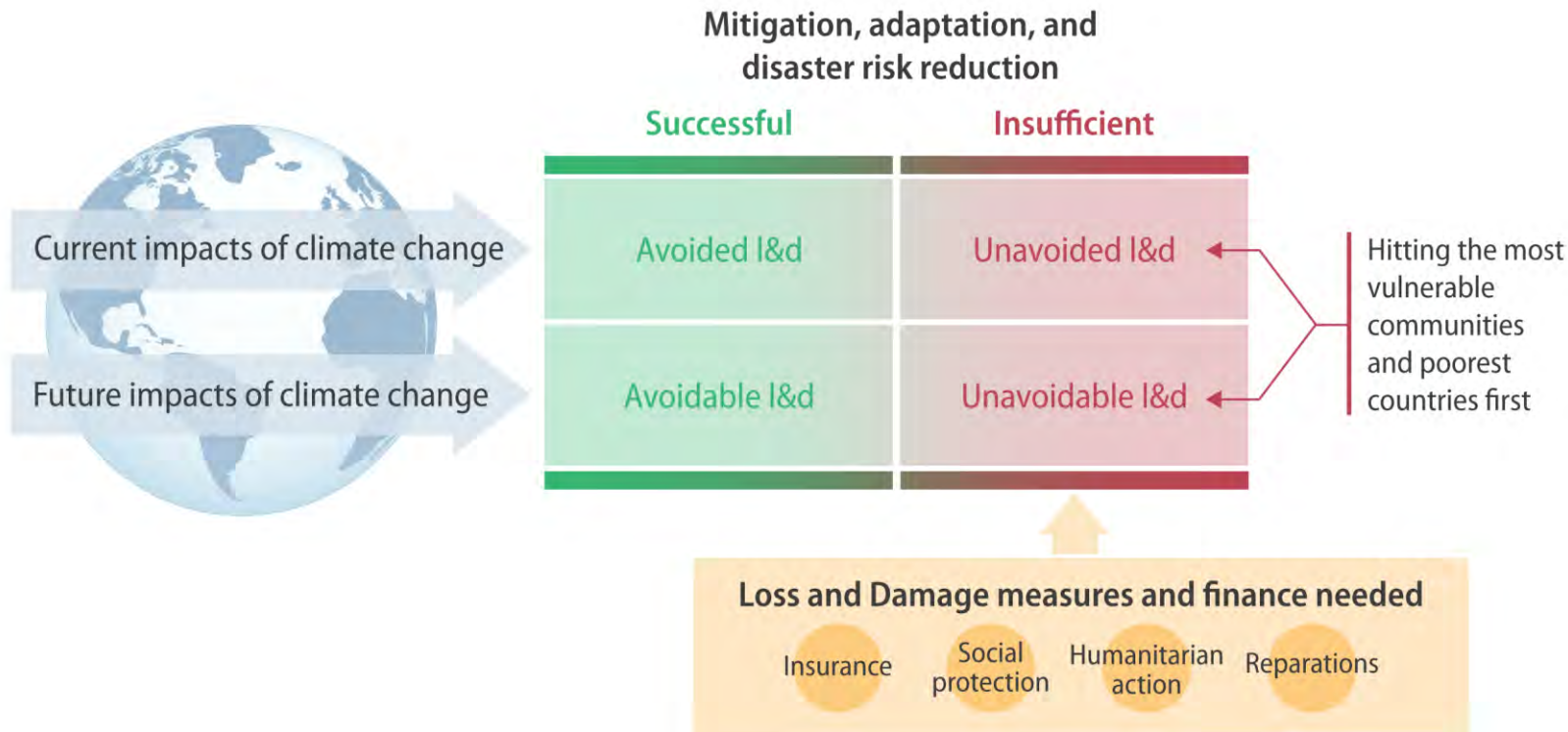
The climate-vulnerable nation will host the global fund's board, while its secretariat will be hosted by the World Bank for the next four years.



Only 9% of pledges to Loss and Damage Fund received so far – World Bank



# Loss and Damage – Where is Health?



# Planetary Health Education



# PH Education for All Ages



# Cross-Sectoral Action for People & Planet





I solemnly pledge to dedicate my life to the service of humanity



and to the preservation of the natural environment and public health and safety of the people



The health of people, their communities, and the planet will be my top priority



and I will maintain the highest respect for human life, as well as reverence for the diversity of life on earth



I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity



and in accordance with the principles of justice, accountability and equity



to do no harm, to respect the autonomy and dignity of patients, and to provide optimal care



in maintaining and creating health which focuses on prevention of harm to people and planet



I will respect and honor the trust that patients and the public place in me and leverage this trust



to promote knowledge, values, and behaviours that support the health of humans and the planet



I will provide direct and indirect care that does not harm and that is of the highest quality



to help patients, communities and the planet, while promoting self-awareness, personal growth



while protecting the natural systems that underpin a viable planet for future generations



I will acknowledge and appreciate sources of knowledge and wisdom



and expand my knowledge of the health of society and the planet



such as from indigenous traditional knowledge systems while challenging attempts



I will also promote interdisciplinary, inclusive action to achieve individual, community, and planetary health



I intend to my own health, wellbeing, and environment



Acknowledging the positive contribution of the health of our generation to the future



I will strive to be a role model for my patients, the public, and my colleagues by exemplifying planetary health



I will not use my position to discriminate against or oppress any individual or group



recognizing that the health of all people is essential to maintaining planetary health



By taking this pledge, I am committing to a vision of personal, community, and planetary health



that will enable the diversity of life on our planet to thrive now and in the future



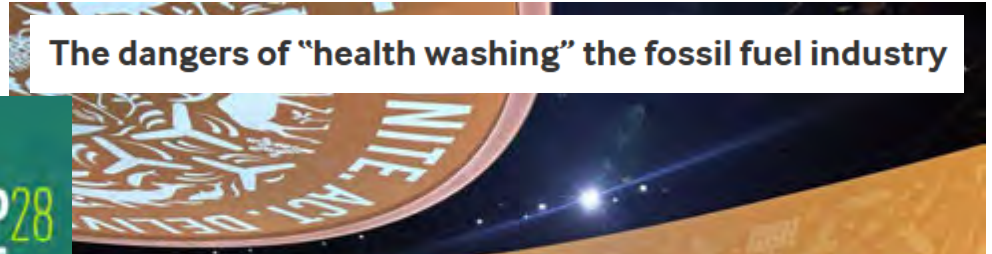
# Commercial Determinants of Health: Engaging but not 'Green/Health-washing'

World's biggest plastic  
polluter announced  
as COP27 sponsor

NOW  
EARTH



The dangers of "health washing" the fossil fuel industry



**BUSINESS  
LEADERSHIP BRIEF  
FOR HEALTHY PLANET,  
HEALTHY PEOPLE**

United Nations  
Global Compact



Reflections from COP28: Resisting  
healthwashing in climate change negotiations





# Be a Planetary Health 'Pracademic'



# No Planetary Health without Climate Justice

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# Pope Francis's Message for Planetary Health

Centering the periphery

Centering the planet and  
its people

Centering peace and  
justice



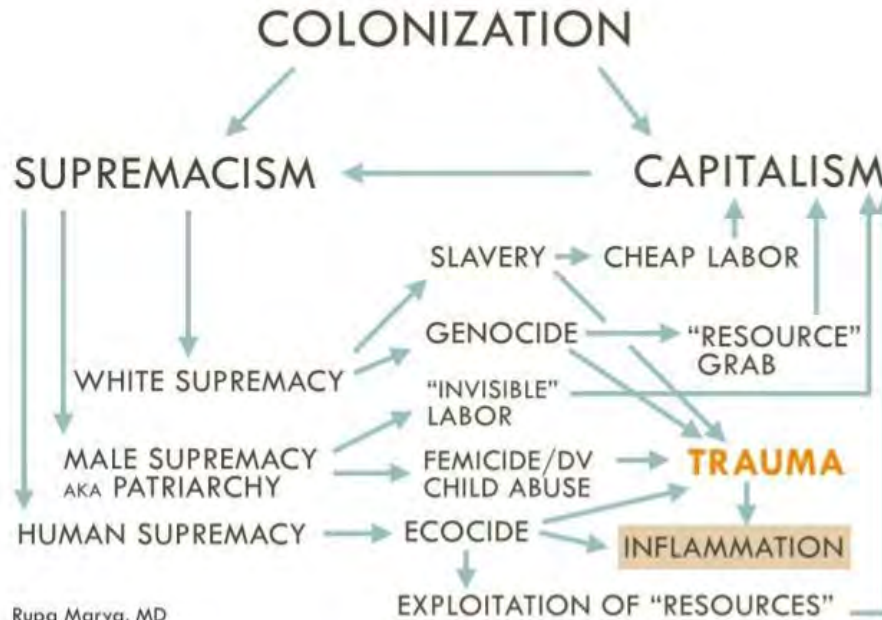
# Planetary Health



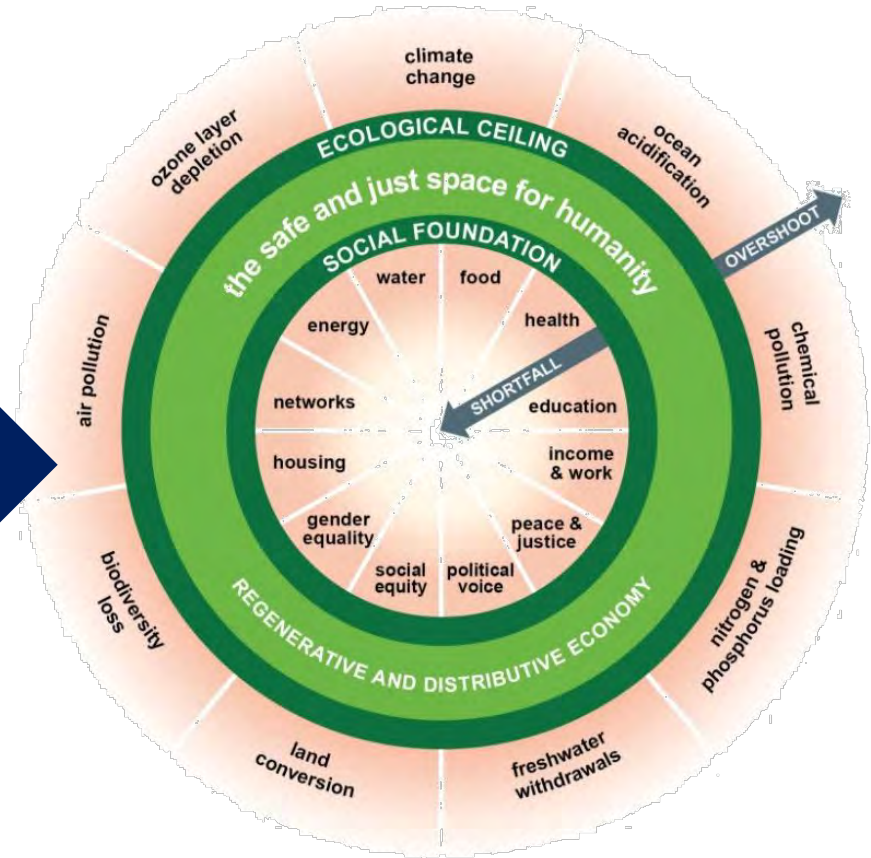
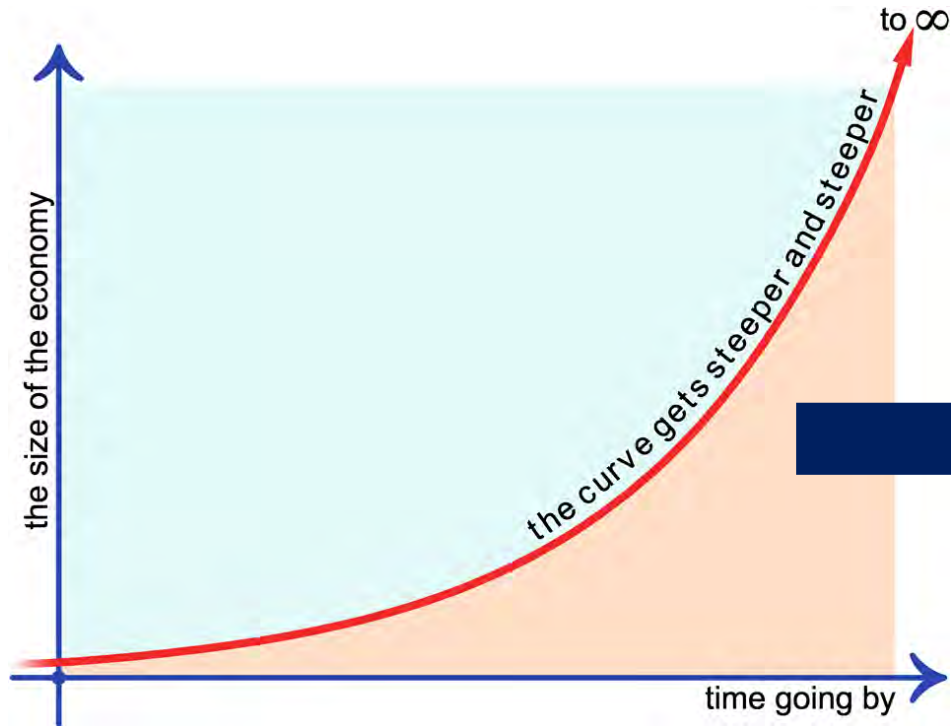
**A Pro-Planet and Pro-Humanity Compass  
Towards Lasting Peace**

# Decolonizing Planetary Health

*Going beyond the cosmetic,  
tackling the asymmetries of power*

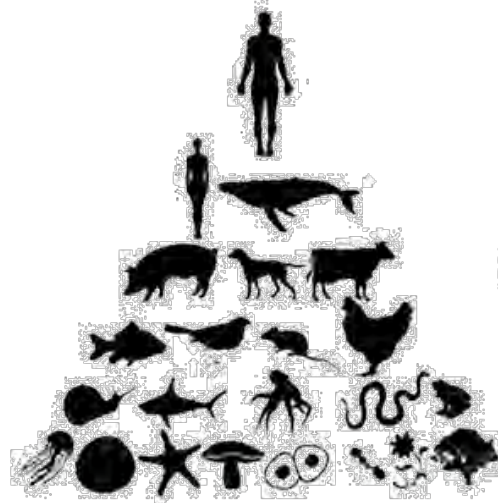


# An Economy that Centers People & Planet



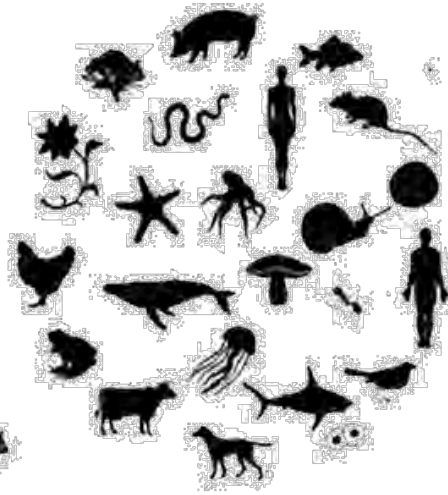
# Planetary Health is Planetary Humility

Ego-Logical



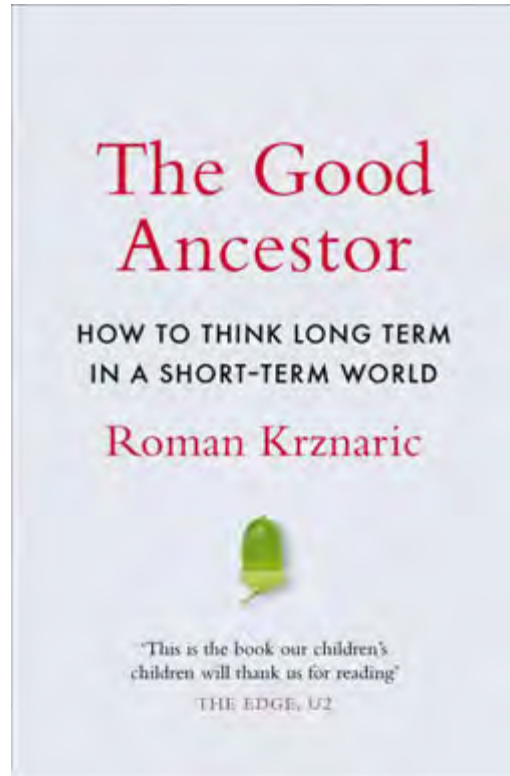
Authoritarian ~ Dualistic ~ Unsustainable  
Delusional ~ Mechanistic ~ Self-destructive  
Unwise ~ Imbalanced ~ Power Seeking

Eco-Logical



Democratic ~ Holistic ~ Sustainable  
Compassionate ~ Natural ~ Regenerative  
Wise ~ Balanced ~ Interdependent

# Planetary Health: Becoming a Good Ancestor



# Advancing Health & Well-being in Asia and Beyond

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