



# Climate change and health

Dr Bettina Menne  
WHO Regional Office for Europe



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Europe



Organisation mondiale de la Santé

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'

Europe



Weltgesundheitsorganisation

REGIONALBÜRO FÜR

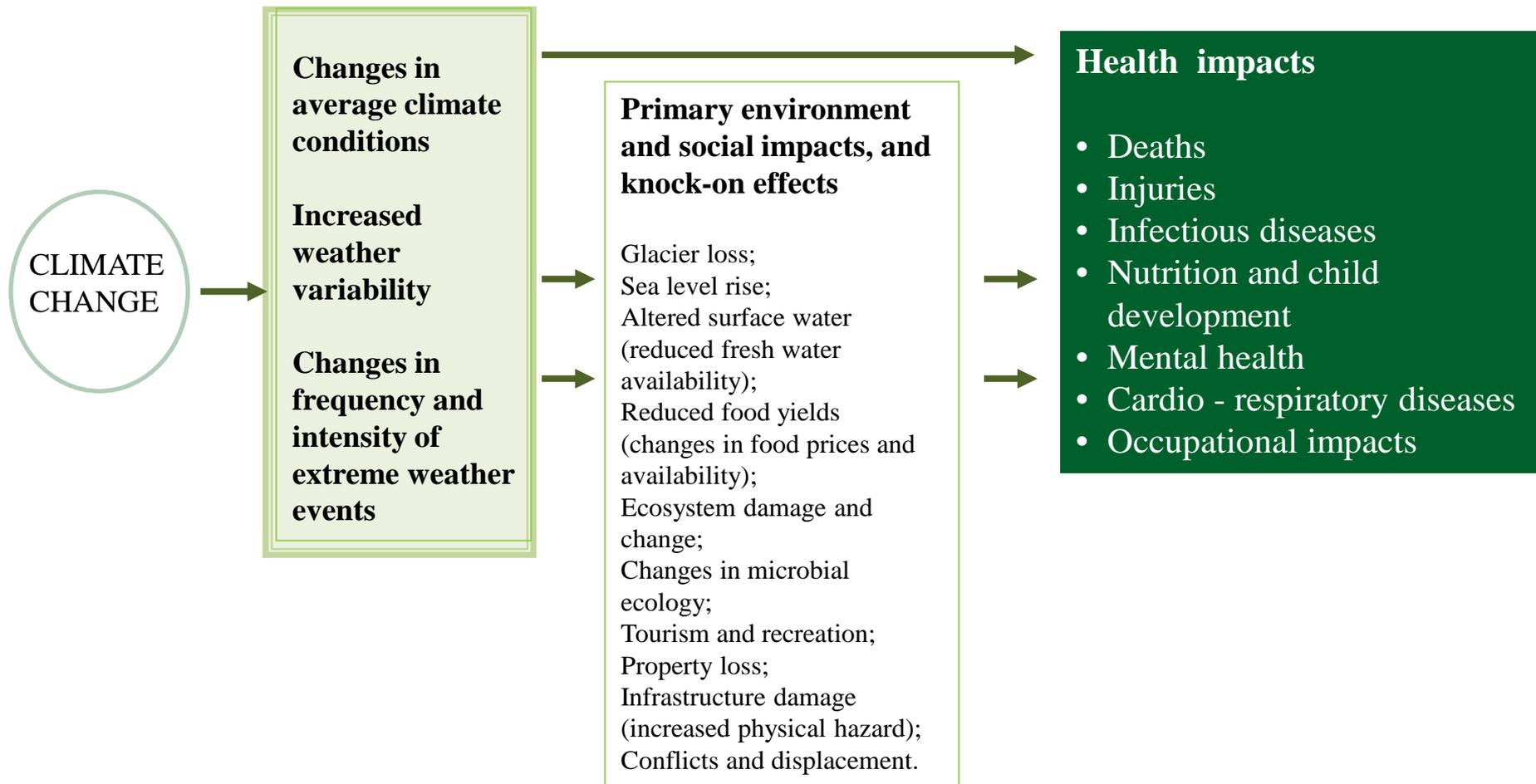
Europa



Всемирная организация здравоохранения

Европейское региональное бюро

# Population health is and will be affected





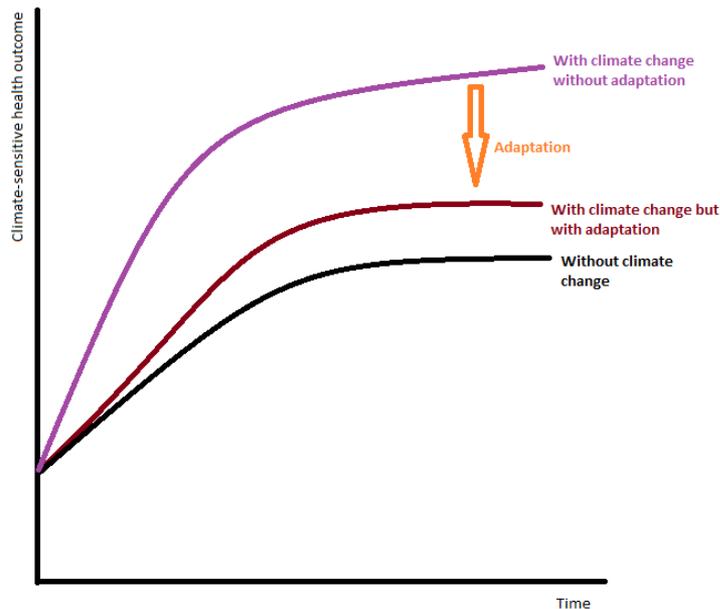
# The major increases in ill-health in the European Region will occur through

- **Expected further impacts of extreme weather events on health**
- **Disruption and stress for health services**
- **Changing distributions of infectious diseases**
- **Changes in air quality, food and water quality and security**
- **Consequences for health of lost work capacity and reduced labor productivity**

# Globally

	Negative impact	Positive impact
<b>Very high confidence</b> Malaria: contraction and expansion, changes in transmission season	←	→
<b>High confidence</b> Increase in malnutrition	←	
Increase in the number of people suffering from deaths, disease and injuries from extreme weather events	←	
Increase in the frequency of cardio-respiratory diseases from changes in air quality	←	
Change in the range of infectious disease vectors	←	→
Reduction of cold-related deaths		→
<b>Medium confidence</b> Increase in the burden of diarrhoeal diseases	←	

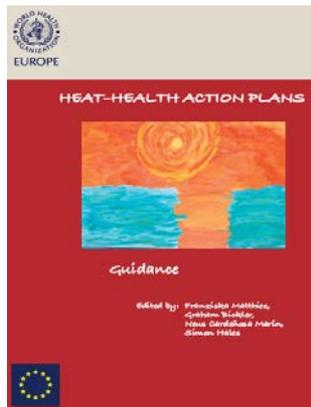
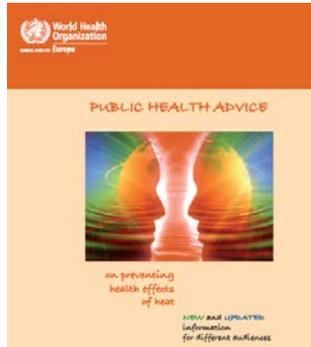
# The need for increased and transformational adaptation



WHO, Euro, 2009, 2013

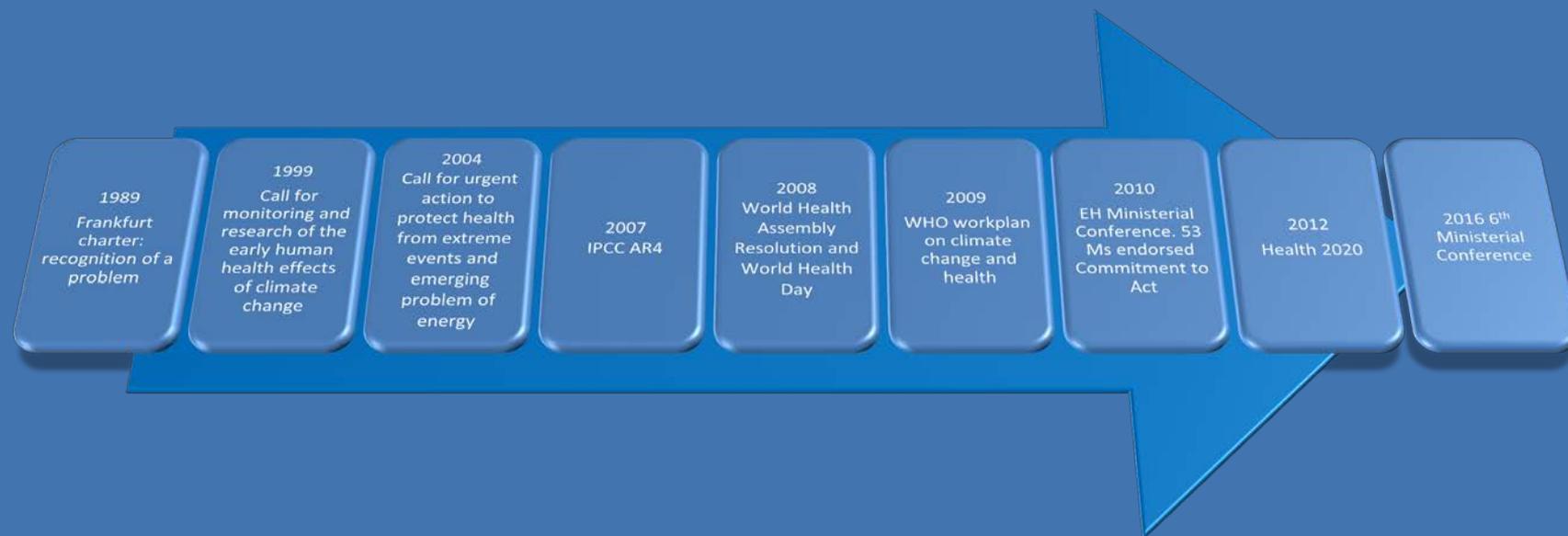
- **In the near-term effective adaptation measures for health are basic public health measures**
- **Important limits may be exceeded in parts of the world during this century**

# Are European countries prepared for the next big heat-wave

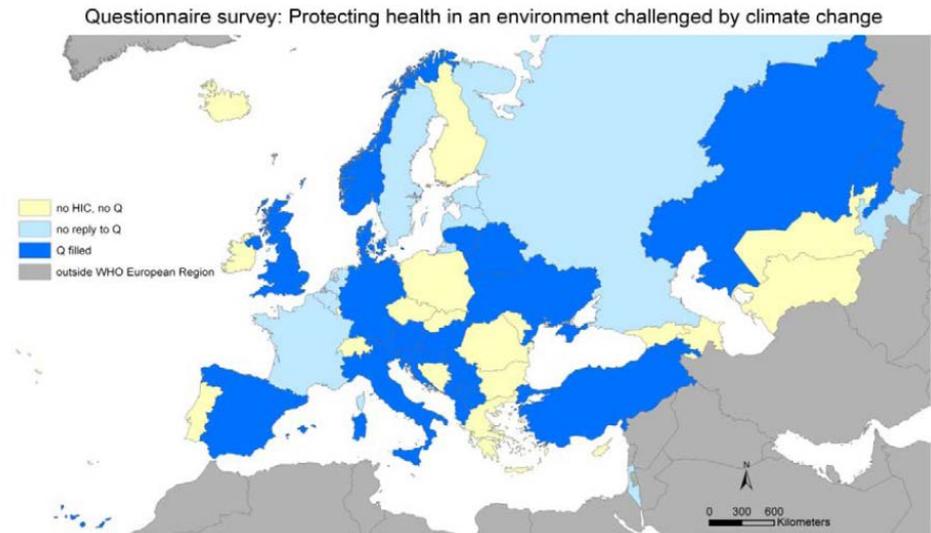


Countries / Indicators	Year	Lead body	Alert system	Information plan	Indoor heat reduction	Vulnerable groups	Health care preparedness	Urban planning	Real-time surveillance	Evaluation	Sum Score
Austria*	2011							**			13.75
Belgium	2005							**			11
Croatia	2012										16
France	2012							**			16.25
Germany*	2004-2008							**			10
Hungary	2007										12
Italy	2008										15
Luxembourg	2006				**			**			12
Macedonia	2010-2011										18.75
Moldova	2010										12
Monaco	2012							**			10
Netherlands	2007							**			15
Portugal	2010							**			17.5
Romania	2008										8***
Serbia	2012							**			4***
Spain	2012				**			**			12
Switzerland*	2007					6		**			11
UK	2012										20

# Since 1989 growing engagement of European MS



# The European Commitment to Act (2010)



# An interesting picture emerging

Figure 3: Interrelationship between sections of the national climate change-related activities

VIA: vulnerability and impact assessment, NAP/S: national action plan or strategy, GHGs: green house gases, HS/ES: health sectors/environment sectors, <sup>1</sup>Spearman correlation coefficient

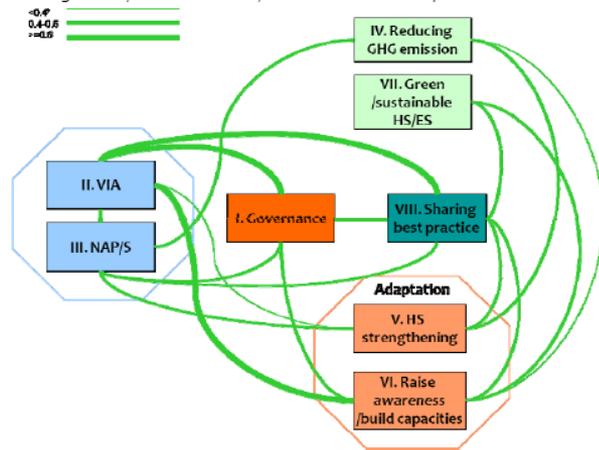
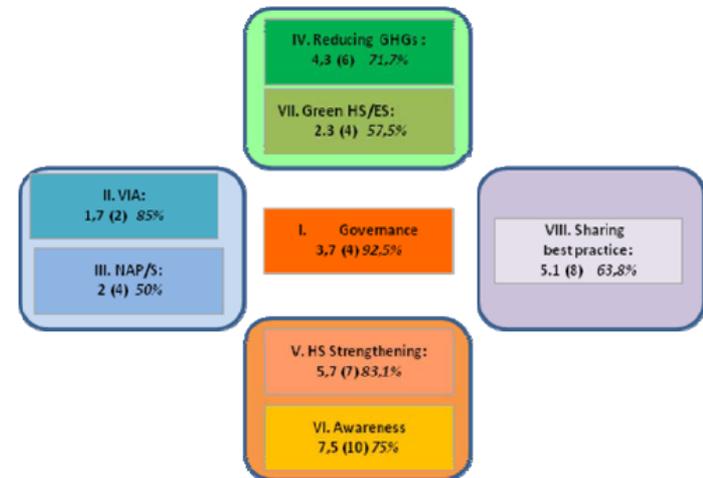


Figure 2: Summary of average positive responses by section topic by characteristics of the country



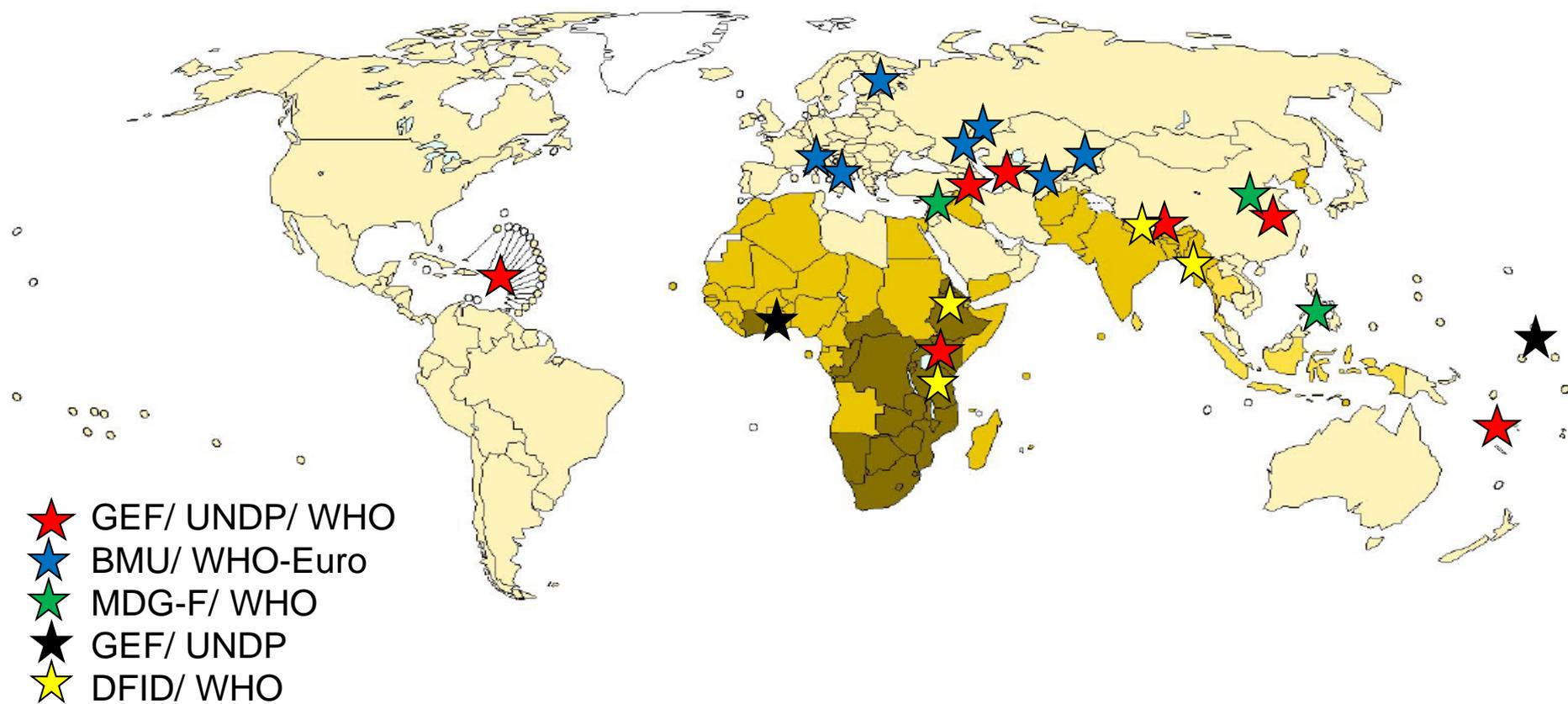


# The International community has given clear direction

- UNFCCC, Article 1, paragraph (1) states need to minimize adverse effects on "*natural and managed ecosystems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on **human health and welfare***"
- World Health Assembly Resolution WHA/61.R19, and Executive Board Resolution EB124.R5, request WHO to ***develop capacity to assess the risks from climate change for human health and to implement effective response measures***, and support countries through ***Awareness raising, Partnerships, Evidence, and health system strengthening.***



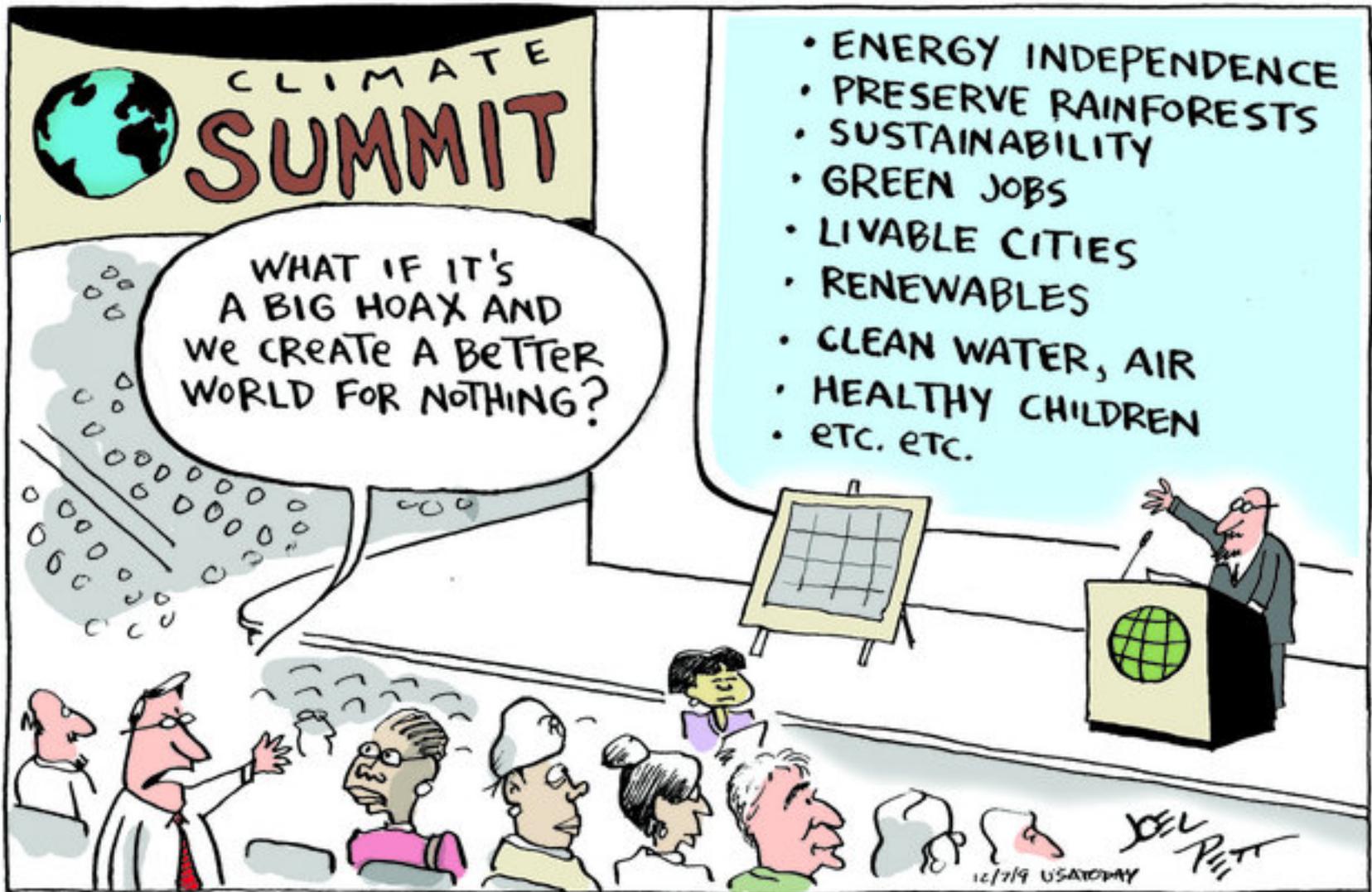
## Many countries are now piloting health adaptation to climate change



\*International funding of US500,000 or more per country.

# In summary

- Health is affected
- Incremental and transformational adaptation will need to be further developed
- Co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation need to be mainstreamed;
- The health sector can lead by example
- But “one voice” is essential to put on the table of negotiators



Joel Pett in USA Today