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GLOBAL HEAT HEALTH
INFORMATION NETWORK
SOUTH ASIA



Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) South Asia Hub



Regional partners:



Extreme heat in South Asia and India



Around **750 million people** in South Asia are exposed to extreme heat each year.¹



The region is considered one of the **global hotspots for lethal humid heat**, where high temperature combines with humidity to exceed human physiological limits.



India experienced more than **280 heatwave days** between 2010 and 2022 across different regions.²



India lost **~259 billion labour hours** due to heat exposure in 2023.³

Heat extremes will be more frequent, intense and longer under all climate change scenarios

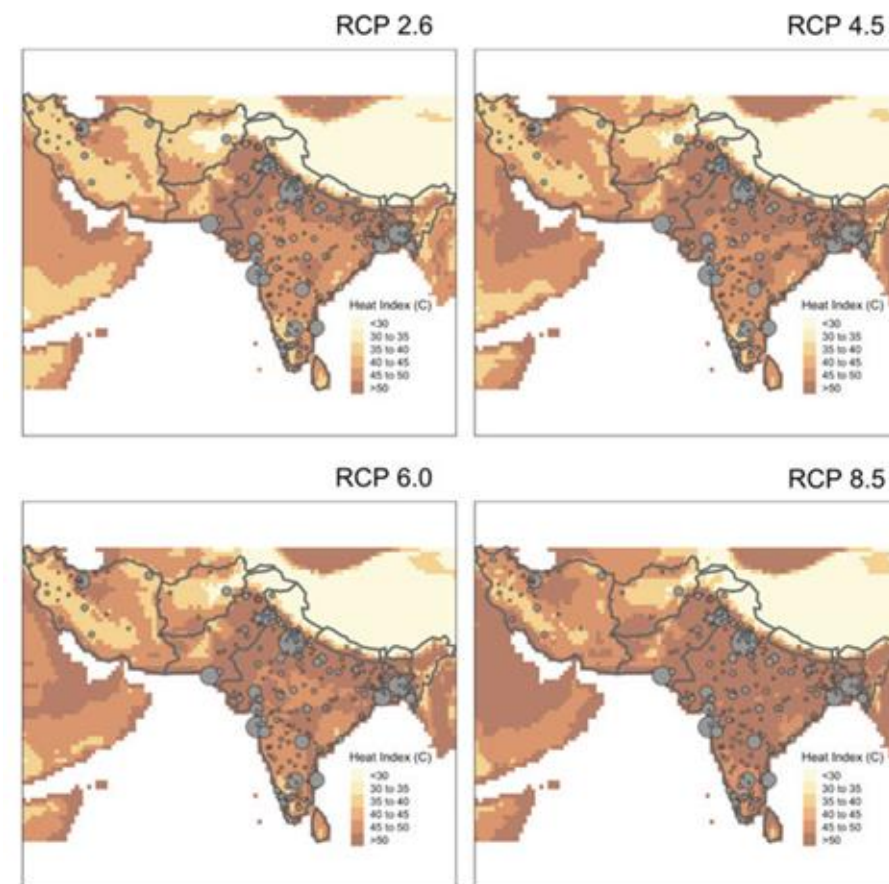
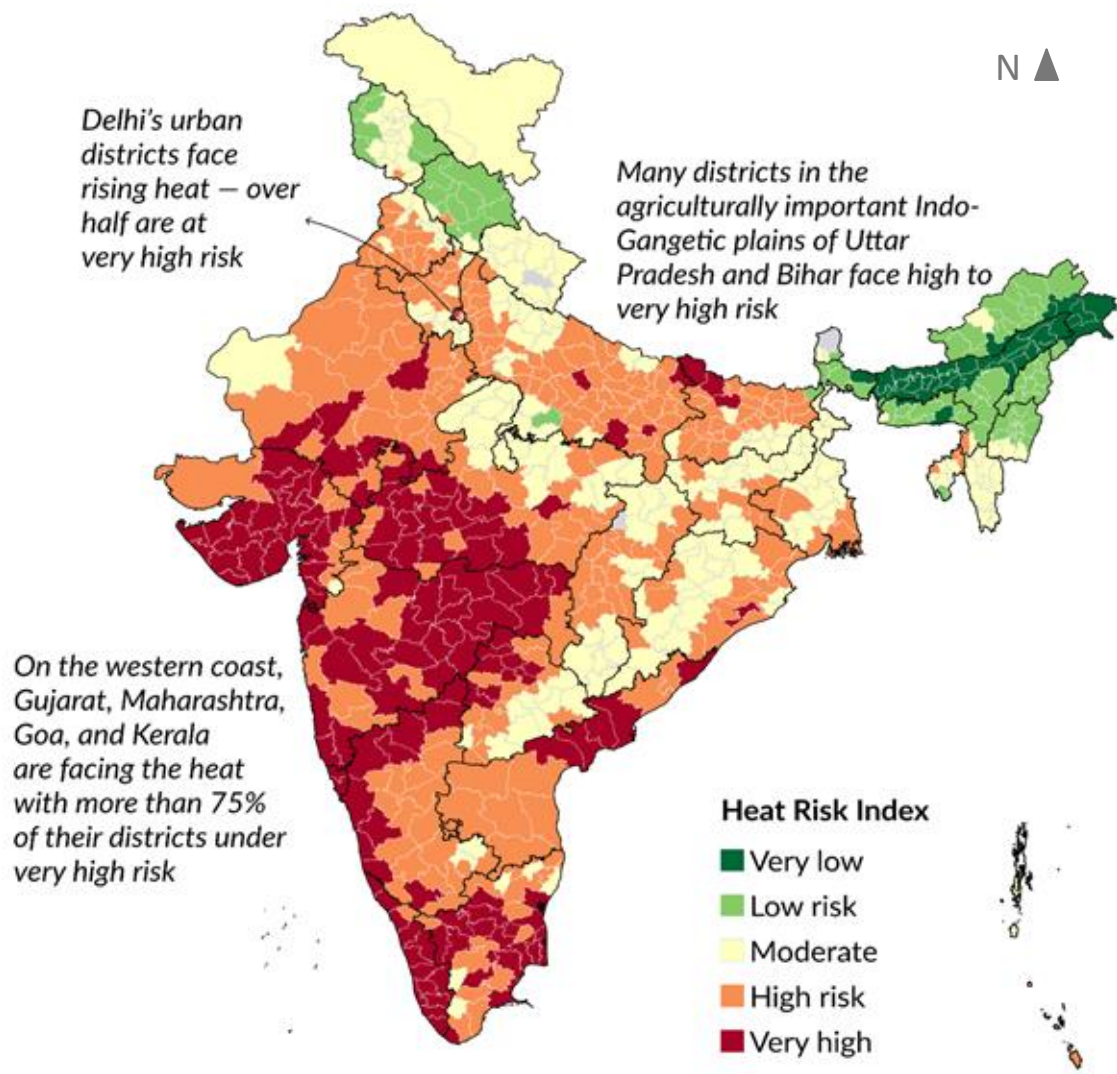


Fig: Projected 5 day extreme heat events intensities for South Asia for the period 2070-2099 by RCP. Data Sources: UN (2018) and the underlying data from ISIMIP - 6 (Warszawski, et al. 2014*)

*Map taken from the study; admin boundaries not accurate

The conundrum of extreme heat in India



~ 57% of Indian districts, home to 76% of total Indian population are in high to very high heat risk category

Category	Number of districts
Very High	151
High	266
Moderate	201
Low	78
Very low	36

Top ten states and UTs: Delhi, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh

New South Asia Heat and Health Hub launched to strengthen regional response to extreme heat

 Published: April 7, 2026

 New Delhi

 GHHIN, CEEW

Recognising this urgency of heat-health resilience, the **Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)**, along with its consortium partners, the **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**, the **Sustainable Futures Collaborative (SFC)**, the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**, and **BRAC JPGSPH** have partnered to host the Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) South Asia Regional Hub.

Aims of the hub

Connect

Connect institutions, practitioners, and policymakers across South Asia by building an enduring **Community of Practice (CoP)** and a **digital knowledge platform** that consolidates data, tools, and policy experiences across **India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal**.

Enable regular interaction through **forums, masterclasses, and thematic working groups**, ensuring that national and local experiences are translated into **regional learning and global exchange**.

Accelerate

Accelerate the generation and application of scientific evidence through **collaborative research, pilot projects, and open-access datasets** on **heat hazards, population exposure, and health vulnerability**.

The Hub will operationalise **Early Warning Systems (EWS)**, advance the integration of **health thresholds** into **forecast-based actions**, and **promote cross-sectoral** innovation linking heat resilience with **water, food, and cooling solutions**.

Catalyse

Catalyse transformative policy and institutional change by embedding **heat-health resilience within national and local policies**, strengthening **health system preparedness**, and promoting **inclusive governance** that prioritises **gender, equity, and decentralisation**.

The Hub will **co-develop a Regional Heat-Health Policy Roadmap**, facilitate **ministerial briefings**, and ensure that evidence informs public investment and disaster management planning.

Thematic Working Groups

To operationalise the Hub's scientific and policy agenda, **four Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)** will serve as the technical backbone of the initiative. Each TWG will bring together **regional experts, government representatives, and researchers** to **co-develop tools, frameworks, and evidence-based recommendations** aligned with GHIN priorities.



Heat-Health Planning

Lead: SFC



Heat at Work

Lead: BRAC JPGSPH



Heat and Cooling

Lead: NRDC



Heat and Governance

Lead: SFC

Thematic Working Group 1



Heat-Health Planning Group

Lead: Sustainable
Futures Collaborative
(SFC)

01

Heat-Health Evidence and Epidemiology

- Generating robust evidence on how extreme heat affects human health (morbidity and mortality).
- Understanding differential impacts across vulnerable groups.

02

Health System Preparedness and Resilience

- Strengthening the capacity of health systems across South Asia
- integrating heat preparedness into broader health system planning frameworks

Thematic Working Group 2



Heat and Cooling Group

Lead: Natural Resources
Defence Council (NRDC)

01

Active Cooling Innovation

- Advancing cooling solutions that are energy-efficient, low-carbon and accessible.
- Technologies and delivery models for sustainable cooling.

02

Passive Cooling for Heat Resilience

- Low-cost, contextually appropriate passive cooling interventions.
- Reflective roofing, green urban infrastructure and shaded public spaces.

03

Evidence on Cooling Effectiveness and Cost-Benefit

- Building the evidence base on returns of various cooling interventions
- Inform investment decisions by governments, urban planners and finance institutions

Thematic Working Group 3



Heat at Work Group

Lead:
BRAC JPGSPH

01

Occupational health

- Strengthening occupational health guidelines to better protect workers from heat stress
- Focus on both the formal and informal sectors.

02

Personal Heat Exposure Reduction

- Exploring innovations in personal protective approaches
- Heat-resistant and breathable workwear, hydration protocols, rest-shade-water frameworks

03

Financial Protection and Livelihood Security

- Developing and piloting financial mechanisms to protect the livelihoods
- Parametric heat insurance, social protection schemes and wage compensation frameworks

Thematic Working Group 4



Heat and Governance Group

Lead: Sustainable
Futures Collaborative
(SFC)

01

Heat Policy Audit and Implementation Gap Analysis

- Systematically reviewing existing heat action plans and adaptation policies across South Asia
- Produce comparative benchmarking evidence to help governments strengthen their frameworks.

02

Innovative Governance Mechanisms for Coordinated Heat Action

- Exploring governance innovations to enable effective, multi-sectoral coordination on heat action.
- Pilot approaches that bridge the gap between policy design and ground-level implementation.

03

Finance for Heat Adaptation

- Developing analytical frameworks and unlocking public finance for heat resilience
- Effective and accountable use of available funds to maximise impact.

By 2028, the Hub will establish



A **regional network of 60+ institutions** actively collaborating on heat and health



15 open-access datasets and technical tools to support planning and research



A **trained cadre of over 500 professionals with at least 40% women** in health, climate, and urban resilience

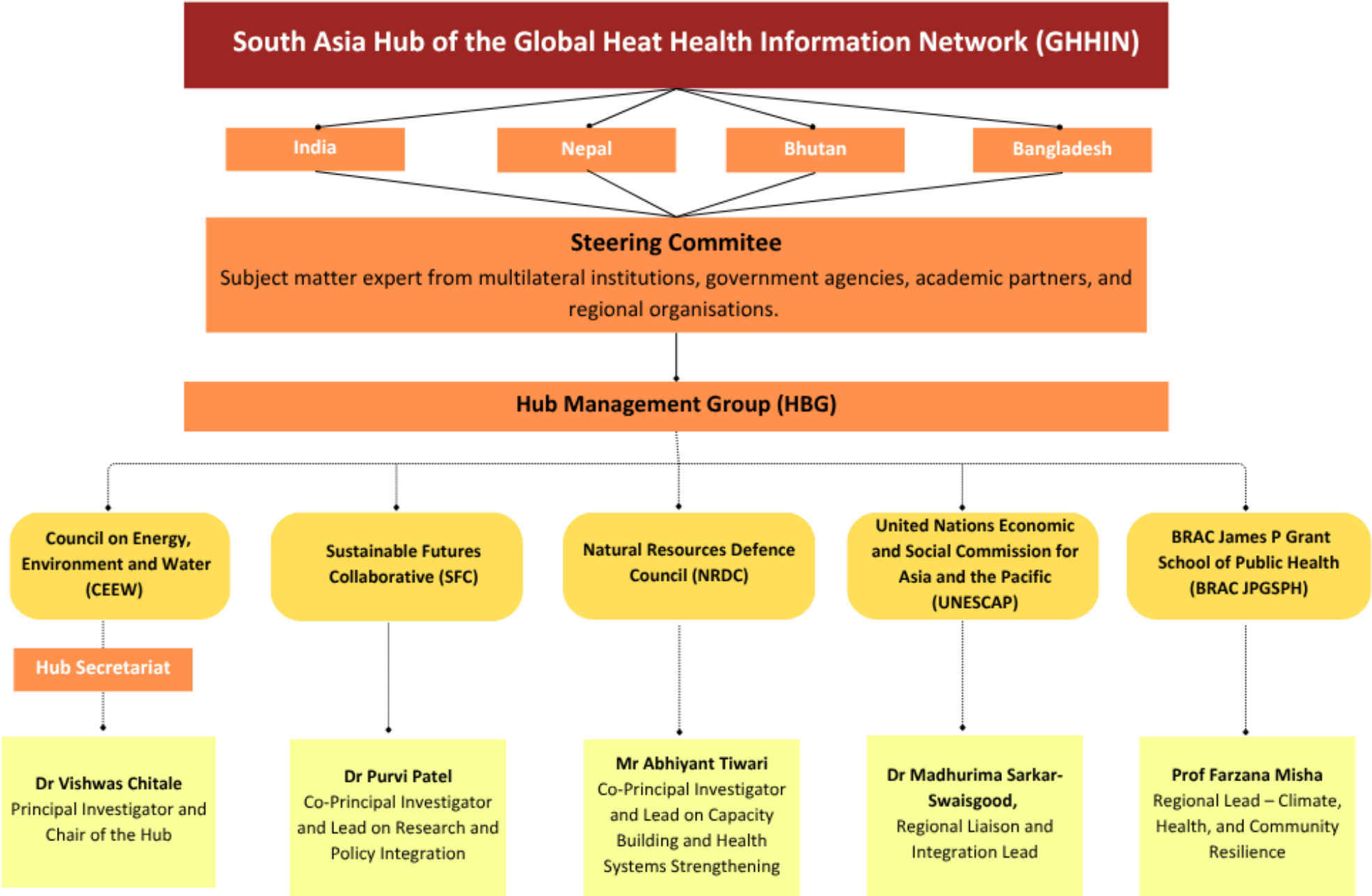


Policy frameworks and Heat Action Plans revised or developed in **at least four South Asian countries** using Hub guidance



Sustained financial commitments from **at least two additional donors or MDBs** for Phase II expansion

Governance structure of the GHHIN SA Hub



Steering Committee



Rita Missal
Member,
National Disaster
Management Authority



James Abraham
CEO,
Council on Energy,
Environment and Water



Dr Bhargav Krishna
Convenor,
Sustainable Futures
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**Dr Joy Shumake-
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Lead, WHO-WMO Joint
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Health; Lead, GHIN
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Professor of Heat and Health
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Professor
Sri Ramachandra Institute of
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**Dr Madhavan Nair
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Atria University



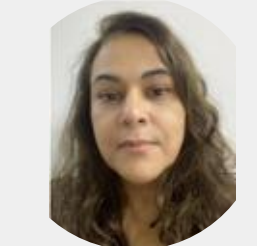
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Indian Institute of Tropical
Meteorology



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Section Chief, Disaster Risk
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DRR Division
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and Social Commission for
Asia and the Pacific

Management Committee of the Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) South Asia Hub

Hub Secretariat

Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)



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Chair of the Hub



Shravan Prabhu
Hub Coordinator



Anushka Goswami
Programme Officer



Shruti Nikhar
Strategic Partnerships



Riddhima Sethi
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Communications
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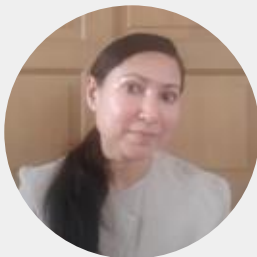
Consortium Partner Leads



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Integration



Mr Abhiyant Tiwari
Co-Principal
Investigator and Lead
on Capacity Building



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Regional Liaison and
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Dr Farzana Misha
Regional Climate,
Health and Community
Resilience Lead



Tamanna Dalal
Lead for Heat and
Governance Thematic
Working Group