Precision Health Platform
Prepared for the future

Climate-Proofing Our Disease Monitoring Platform

Precision Health: The Story So Far

With a vision to mainstream public health preparedness through environmental surveillance in the Global South, the Precision Health platform is a unique, decentralized collaborative that has undertaken wastewater surveillance for successful COVID-19 early warning, and is now operational in 5 cities in India. We plan to reach 20 more cities across the globe in the next 3 years.

We are the only platform in the region to make disease monitoring intelligence available publicly (@PrecisionHealth) as well as to local decision makers through targeted sensemaking workshops. We also host a select group of experts in the broader field of disease surveillance through the Indian Alliance for Public Health Preparedness. For more, please visit: https://www.precisionhealth.in/ and https://www.esallianceforpublichealth.org

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Precision Health Platform (PHP) 2.0: Layering Climate Interventions

Driven by our vision to stay relevant for public health systems in LMICs and ensure that future pandemics are prevented, we have upgraded our scope of work, and we’re prioritizing evidence generation for effective action on climate-mediated health risks for vulnerable communities.

Why Climate?

The 2022 Lancet Countdown Report shows a host of health effects of climate change that range from heat related illness and mortality, to the spread of vector-borne and water-borne pathogens, to rising insecurity as food cropping patterns are changed. These could be brought on by extreme weather events induced by global warming such as flooding, droughts and heatwaves.

Why do we need to do this?

While there are already efforts underway to use geospatial technologies to predict and prepare for extreme weather events, this remains restricted to broad geographical identification, and there is limited ‘downstream’, grounded action to complement the use of such technology with community-level intelligence, and determine contextual health concerns related to climate. PHP 2.0 will fill this gap. By developing a layered, interconnected and contextualized disease monitoring and response system, we will address the health and wellbeing problems brought on by climate change in a people-centered, equitable way.

What will we do, exactly?

1. Utilize tools such as geospatial intelligence to gauge the risk of extreme weather events, participatory surveillance to empower communities to report on their own health; and event-based surveillance to scan local, regional and global news reports for emerging disease outbreaks
2. Analyse and triangulate priorities from these diverse data sources along with other information emerging from communities or public health networks and showcase them to the public as a comprehensive data dashboard.
3. Leverage our community/frontline worker networks and empower them to respond to the emerging list of health priorities related to climate, integrating social and behavioural change communications (SBCC) and risk communications principles (RCCE) in their training.
4. Advocate for public health policies based on early warnings generated through our platform and risk communications and community engagement principles.

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PHP 2.0: Theory of Change (ToC)

IF WE

1. Use geospatial intelligence to gauge the risk of extreme weather events & prioritize our intervention geographies
2. Use participatory surveillance to empower communities to report on their own health
3. Use Event-based surveillance to scan local, regional, and global news reports for emerging disease outbreaks

THEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO

Localize Evidence on Climate Impacts on Health and Solve for the Wellbeing of Vulnerable Communities in a Precise Manner

BY

1. Analyzing and triangulating data from diverse disease surveillance sources listed above, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of health priorities related to climate.

2. Building the capacity of CHWs to recognize, screen, and prevent climate-related illnesses and ailments through social and behavioral change and risk communications among vulnerable communities of focus.

3. Advocate for public health actions at scale through decision-makers based on early warnings generated through the platform.

Since we are building solutions into the program implementation design, these are also the intermediate outcomes of the program.

IMPACT

Increased number of Healthy Days for vulnerable communities through improved preparedness and responsiveness to climate risks

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