THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MATERNAL HEALTH

Climate change directly and indirectly impacts maternal health, making pregnancy less safe and worsening neonatal health outcomes.

DIRECT IMPACT

Global warming impacts the patterns of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, with negative maternal and child health outcomes such as maternal illness and low birth weight (WHO, 2017).

HEAT worsens maternal and neonatal health outcomes: an increase of one degree Celsius in the week before delivery corresponds with a six per cent greater likelihood of stillbirth (Kuehn and McCormick, 2017; He, Jian Rong et al., 2016).

Climate change worsens global inequity in maternal nutrition (Lancet, 2020).

INDIRECT IMPACT

Climate-related emergencies cause major disruptions in access to health services and life-saving commodities, including contraception (Behrman & Weitzman, 2016).

Increased poverty and food insecurity driven by climate-related loss of livelihoods negatively affects maternal health etc (Lancet, 2021).

MACRO- AND MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES caused by food insecurity and undernutrition among pregnant women can affect pregnancy, nursing and newborn outcomes (Center for Climate Change and Health; Sorensen, C., et al., 2018; Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women).

WE NEED TO ENSURE better preparedness and response to emergencies and that we meet the sexual and reproductive health needs of those impacted, displaced and at risk of climate crises.

CALL TO ACTION