



**December 2023 - January 2024**

**Your bi-monthly climate connection is here!**

2023 has been a watershed moment in climate history. Experts have expressed dismay that last year and this year will be seen as the turning point at which the futility of governments in dealing with climate change was finally exposed. The much awaited COP28 didn't seem to even walk the talk when a sprint was required to get back on track to our Paris goals.

While the negotiations for climate mitigation measures seem to be moving at a snail's pace, climate induced weather events are piling up, claiming more lives than in previous years. Although global investment in clean energy technologies gives a glimmer of hope, a multi-dimensional approach is required to tackle the impacts in other sectors.

Vulnerable populations particularly in the global south countries are in immediate need of climate adaptation measures to withstand the evolving nature of climate impacts. The climate crisis is also increasingly manifesting as a public health crisis.

This is our bi-monthly dispatch of updates and insights on renewable energy, energy transition, climate change, and the environment in general. We hope you enjoy reading it.



## From the corners of the country



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

India has reported a drought at least once every three years over a period of the last 50 years and has lost about 2-5% of its GDP due to impacts of drought. In addition to the 3 types of commonly recognised droughts, which are meteorological, hydrological and agricultural, the need for recognition of 'ecological' drought is becoming urgent. Ecological drought is the result of the other types of droughts which drives the ecosystem beyond its thresholds and adversely impacts the natural balance of ecosystems and human systems. Especially in a country like India, where climate change induced droughts are a common experience of late, understanding the impacts of an ecological drought and developing suitable tools will alleviate the vulnerabilities of India and could be a step towards climate adaptation.

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## From around the world



Energy Transition Investment Trends, BloombergNEF's annual review of global investment in the low-carbon energy transition, has found that global investment in renewable energy, electric vehicles, hydrogen and carbon capture has surged 17% in 2023 and has hit almost 1.8 trillion dollars. This is a new record level of annual investment and offers some hope for the clean energy transition in a year of geopolitical turbulence, high interest rates and cost inflation. While China leads the race with a whopping 38% of the global investment, the EU, US and UK together have invested more than China in 2023, as compared to 2022. While this is relatively promising, the report finds that the current level of investment in clean energy technologies needs to double to bring us back on track to meet the Paris goals.

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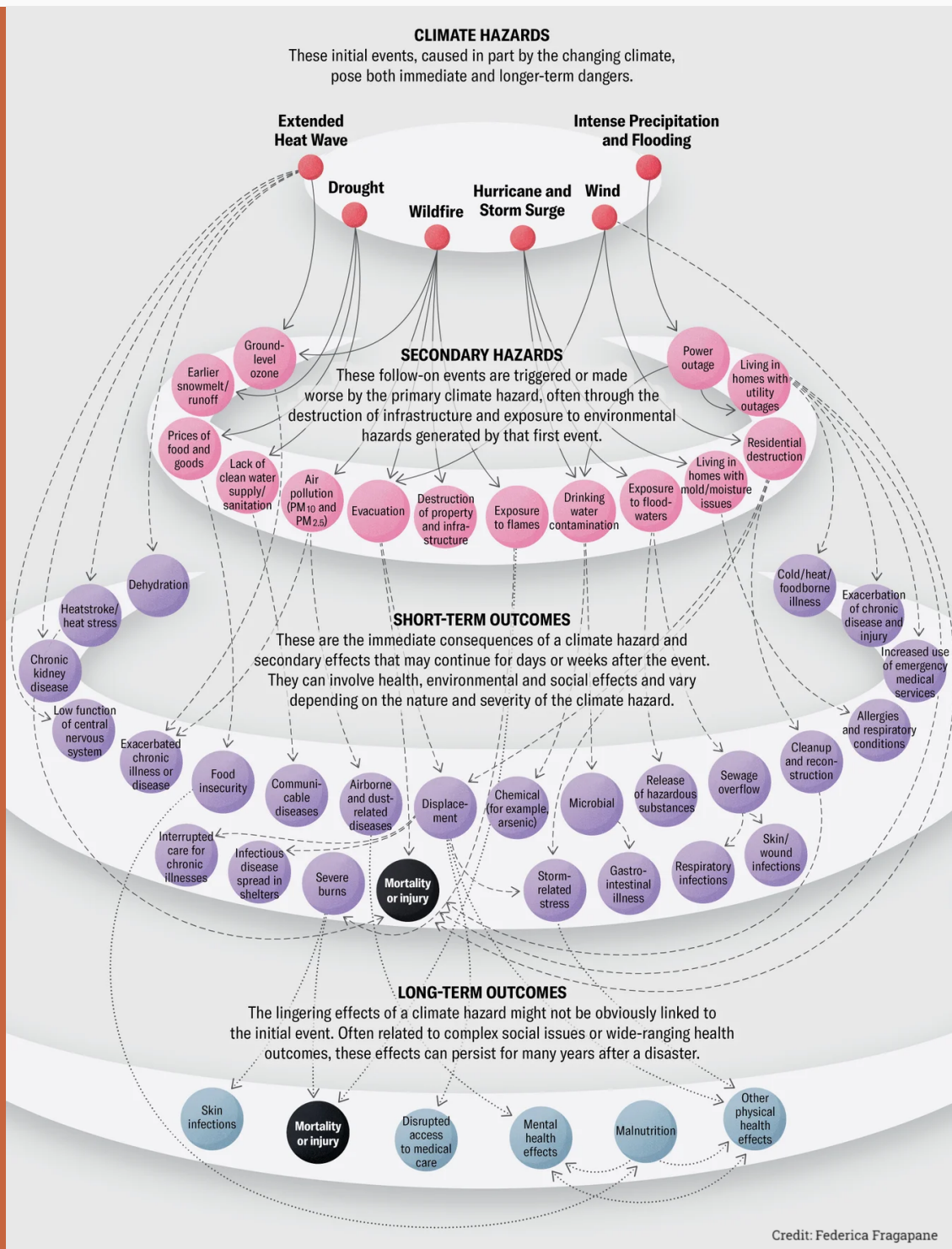
## Global warnings



Scientists express deep concern that 2023 which has been the hottest year in recorded history would also be remembered as the year humanity exposed its inability to tackle the climate crisis. James Hansen, director of the climate programme at Columbia University comments that experts are dismayed by the enormous gap between scientific warnings and political action. It has taken over 30 years for the world leaders to get it on paper that the world needs to transition away from fossil fuels. However the supposed victory of fossil fuels being mentioned at COP28 is too little too late. Experts say that 2023 is nothing but shocking, in terms of the strength of climate occurrences, from heatwaves, droughts, floods and fires, to rate of ice melt, rise in sea levels and temperature anomalies particularly in the ocean.

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# In a nutshell



When scientists warn about rapid increase in the rate of climate disasters, we usually only think of the environmental damages and the possible changes in the topography of the affected area. This is the perception we hold from our experience of natural disasters which are generally cyclical. However the climate induced disasters we will continue to face at a higher intensity and frequency are driven by human activities and also ironically inaction. Check out this visualisation of the cascading effects of climate disasters to understand short and long terms impacts.

[Know more](#)

**Make it happen!**



Photo: UK Health Alliance on Climate Change

The public health impact of climate change and the loss of biodiversity is now so severe as to be declared a global public health emergency. People in vulnerable nations are already experiencing major effects on health, including loss of life from extreme weather events, heatwaves, air pollution, and the spread of infectious diseases as seen during COVID-19, which will continue to worsen as global temperatures rise. Sign this petition calling on the World Health Organisation to declare a global public health emergency at the World Health Assembly in May 2024.

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## Nugget



Did you know that the year 2023 recorded 240 climate related weather events? Using the international disaster database, Save the Children has found that these disasters have claimed the lives of 12000 people, which is 30% more than in 2022.

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# CAG

**Citizen consumer and civic Action Group**

Climate Connection is an initiative of Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) to assist and inform local communities, grassroots NGOs, environment and consumer groups, village representatives and media representatives on how to embrace renewable energy, navigate energy transition, mitigate climate change, and protect the environment they live in. We create change by developing and disseminating information resources on air pollution, climate change, environment and policies surrounding these issues.

