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Commentary: Climate Change, Health, Food Security

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On February 16 the American Public Health Association, The Climate Reality Project, Harvard Global Health Institute and the University of Washington Center for Health co-hosted a Climate Change and Health Meeting. It was live streamed free to the public and the recording is available. https://www.climaterealityproject.org/health?utm_source=Email-Atlanta-WrapUp&utm_campaign=ClimateHealth&utm_medium=Email#watch

This is scary stuff. No wonder my daughter refuses to bring any more children into our uncertain world.

The entire recording is well worth a listen and you may feel like you just sat through a horror movie with occasional positive messages to keep us all from jumping off the planet. In the discussion on Food Security (~1hr 50 min into the recording) an unfamiliarity with impacts of climate change on animals was indicated. There seemed to be a better grasp of global warming effects on plants and plant micro-nutrients. Comments on vector-borne diseases, mental health and all the keynotes and panel discussions were sobering but not to be missed.

Recognizing the inextricable interactions between animal, human and environmental health, many One Health advocates are concerned that we are missing the boat if we don't also focus on the animal component relative to food security. The world needs to know the threat that climate change poses to agriculture and food security.

Our One Health Colleague, Dr. Laura Kahn, wrote about this topic last September, 2016 in her column in the [*Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*](#). She recently reiterated,

“Agriculture and food security are the foundation of civilization. Without a stable, predictable, conducive climate, agriculture will fail. This has already happened. Syria experienced devastating drought and food security collapse in the 3 years preceding the Syrian Civil war.

This is (just) the beginning, the tip of the iceberg. We can anticipate many more climate change/food insecure refugees in the decades ahead. We need to mitigate our greenhouse gas emissions, but even if we drop to zero today, we still have all that has been pumped into the atmosphere which will affect the climate for decades to come.

This is an international emergency that nobody recognizes. We need to have national and international conversations and policies in place to prepare and mitigate the effects.

One Health can and should play a key role in preparing for the worst yet to come.”

I couldn't agree more.

Check out this One Health video on YouTube.

Mar 7, 2017 One Health Linking Human, Animal and Ecosystem Health

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pyLm2j3jxl&feature=youtu.be>