

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

International Conference on Health and Extreme Weather

*From drought to deluge
(Global Pathways to Resilient Health Systems in an Era of Extreme Weather)*



DATES:	24 - 25 August 2026
VENUE:	UNAM, Hage Geingob Campus, Windhoek, Namibia
HOSTED BY:	Department of Public Health, University of Namibia
IN COLLABORATION WITH:	Center for Climate and Health Global Research on Disasters (CORD) Consortium

BACKGROUND

Extreme weather events are increasingly shaping global public health realities. Droughts, floods, heatwaves, storms and other climatic shocks are growing in both frequency and intensity, altering disease patterns, undermining food security, driving population displacement and affecting psychosocial wellbeing. In Southern Africa, prolonged droughts have resulted in significant livelihood losses and widespread food insecurity, contributing to poorer health outcomes. In other regions, cyclones and flooding continue to disrupt health systems, damage critical infrastructure and destabilize community wellbeing.

The Center for Climate and Health Global Research on Disasters (CORD) Consortium, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under NIH and Extreme Weather Initiative brings together global partners including the University of Namibia and leading institutions across Africa, Asia and North America. This is with the aim of investigating how extreme weather affects health and to co-develop culturally grounded adaptation strategies. To further build on this collaborative foundation, the Department of Public Health at the University of Namibia is convening an International Conference on Health and Extreme Weather to advance interdisciplinary dialogue, comparative research and policy innovation.

We are therefore inviting researchers, policymakers, practitioners and community partners to submit abstracts for scientific presentations. Submissions should reflect high-quality research work, innovative practices or policy-relevant insights that advance understanding of the relationship between extreme weather and health.

CONFERENCE THEMATIC AREAS AND SUB-THEMES

Theme 1: Extreme weather and population health

- Epidemiology of climate-sensitive diseases
- Heatwaves, floods, droughts and health risks
- Environmental determinants of health

Theme 2: Mental health and psychosocial support

- Psychological impacts of disasters
- Community-based mental health interventions
- Cultural interpretations of trauma and resilience
- Faith-based coping mechanisms

Theme 3: Food Security, nutrition and livelihoods

- Drought and malnutrition
- Climate shocks and household food security
- Nutrition interventions in emergencies

Theme 4: Disaster preparedness and early warning

- Health early warning systems
- Health system resilience and emergency preparedness

Theme 5: Vulnerable populations and equity

- Women and children in climate disasters
- Migration, displacement and health
- Climate justice and health equity

Theme 6: Community resilience and indigenous knowledge

- Indigenous environmental knowledge
- Community-led adaptation strategies

Theme 7: Technology and climate-health intelligence

- Artificial intelligence in climate-health modelling
- Digital health tools for disaster response
- Climate data integration into health systems
- AI and digital climate-health tools

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACTS

PRESENTATION FORMATS

Authors may indicate their preferred presentation type:

- Oral Presentation (12–15 minutes + Question and Answer)
- Poster Presentation
- Panel Discussion Proposal
- Lightning Talk (5 minutes)

ABSTRACT STRUCTURE

All abstracts must be written in English and follow the selected structure as below:

FORMAT ONE: FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ABSTRACTS	FORMAT TWO: FOR PRACTICE, COMMUNITY OR POLICY ABSTRACTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title (15 words max)• Authors and Affiliations• Background: Brief context and rationale• Objectives: Clear aim(s) of the study• Methods: Study design, data sources, and analytical approach• Results: Key findings (preliminary or final)• Conclusion: Implications for policy, practice, or research• Keywords: 4–6 keywords	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title• Authors and Affiliations• Context/Problem Statement• Approach/Intervention• Outcomes or Lessons Learned• Conclusion/Recommendations• Keywords (4-6 keywords)

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

- Indicate preferred presentation format (Oral / Poster / Panel)
- Maximum length: 300 words (excluding title, authors, and keywords)
- Font: Times New Roman, font size 12, 1.5 spacing
- File format: Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF
- Do not include tables, figures or references in the abstract text
- Include 4–6 keywords

REGISTRATION PAYMENTS

Details: First National Bank

Account Name: The University of Namibia

Account number: 62260241395

Account type: Corporate Cheque Account

Branch Code: 281872

Swift/BIC: FIRNNANX

Ref: R430 (Surname/Name)

Email proof of payment to: CORDConference@unam.na

IMPORTANT DATES

DATES	ACTIVITY
27 April 2026	Call for Abstracts opens
30 June 2026	Abstract submission deadline
26 June 2026	Notification of acceptance
24 – 25 August 2026	Conference dates

REGISTRATION FEES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Category	Registration Fee	
	NAD (N\$)	USD (\$)
Namibian Participants	500	
International Participants		200
UNAM Participants	Free	

SUBMISSION PROCESS AND INQUIRIES

Each submitting author may submit up to three abstracts. By submitting an abstract, authors confirm that all listed co-authors have approved the content.

Please submit abstracts via email to:

CORDConference@unam.na

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

At least one author of an accepted abstract **must register for the Summit** to present their work.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information, contact the University of Namibia Team:

Desderius Haufiku

E-mail: hdesderius@unam.na

Dr Anna Shilunga (HOD Department of Public Health)

E-mail: ashilunga@unam.na

Mechtilde Pinto

E-mail: mpinto@unam.na