

Join the *Lancet* Countdown as a Working Group Co- Chair!

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIR ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role title

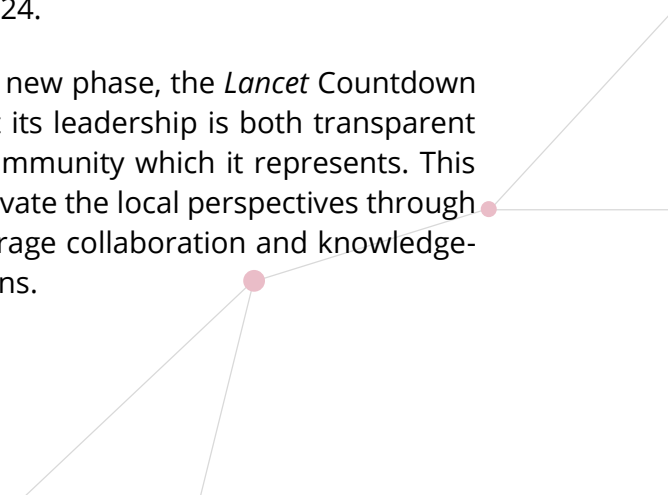
Working Group Co-Chair, Lancet Countdown

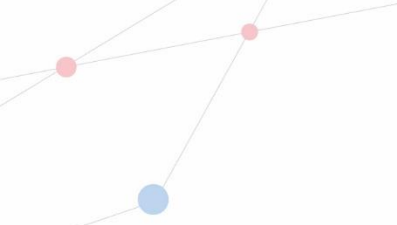
Background

The *Lancet* Countdown on Health and Climate Change is an independent, international, multidisciplinary research collaboration. It brings together over 300 researchers from across the world, to track the health impacts of climate change, and evolving health opportunities of climate action, through more than 50 scientific indicators.

The *Lancet* Countdown was established in 2016, and has grown to include six regional centres, gaining international recognition and relevance to become a global authority on climate change and health. As the profile of the climate change and health gains prominence, in particular following the first Health Day at COP28, the *Lancet* Countdown commenced a new phase of increased ambition in 2024.

To support the programme to scale its impact in this new phase, the *Lancet* Countdown has updated its governance structure to ensure that its leadership is both transparent and representative of the diverse global research community which it represents. This has involved creating several new roles, which will elevate the local perspectives through the *Lancet* Countdown's Regional Centres and encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing across all of the *Lancet* Countdown's operations.





This includes appointing three new thematic Working Group (WG) Co-Chairs to support the academic collaboration in its activities across the three core themes which do not currently have Co-Chairs:

- Adaptation, Planning, and Resilience for Health (WG2)
- Mitigation Actions and Health Co-Benefits (WG3)
- Public and Political Engagement in Health and Climate Change (WG5)

These roles represent a unique opportunity for globally recognised experts in each of the thematic areas to leverage their research and expertise to guide a global health-centred response to climate change.

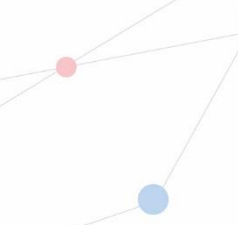
Responsibilities of Working Group Co-Chairs

Working Group Co-Chairs are at the heart of the *Lancet* Countdown's strategic leadership. They're recognised academics, who have significantly contributed towards developing their field of study, who remain involved in leading research and have experience working internationally in cross-disciplinary collaborations.

WG Co-Chairs have the opportunity to be authors of the *Lancet* Countdown's flagship global indicator report, published annually in *The Lancet*. In particular, WG Co-Chairs are expected to offer support to the Global WG Chair in an advisory capacity, by promoting a globally representative and inclusive global report; co-authoring the introduction and conclusions to their WG section of the global report; providing expert input into the development of indicators, and deputising for the WG Chair in Chairing Global WG meetings in exceptional cases.

WG Co-Chairs also play an important role in the strategic governance of the *Lancet* Countdown, promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing between the WG Leaders of the six different Regional Centres, and contributing towards setting the overarching research agenda of each WG to be deployed across the *Lancet* Countdown's centres. This impactful responsibility includes advising the WG Chair on the development of an inclusive and representative WG indicator framework; providing expert recommendations for the priorities for indicator development; and advising the WG in the priorities for allocation of research funding. They will also take part of strategic decisions regarding the approach for the *Lancet* Countdown Global and Regional indicator reports and advise on strategies to increase its policy relevance.

Working Group Co-Chairs act as delegates for the *Lancet* Countdown, representing the programme at high-level academic and policy events, and acting as spokespersons to communicate the findings of the *Lancet* Countdown's science.



Commitment

Fulfilling these responsibilities will on average require a commitment of 5-10% FTE from the WG Co-Chair. Generally, this time-commitment will be funded by the Co-Chair's research institution or provided in-kind. Participation in this initiative is voluntary and no remuneration is available through this call.

WG Co-Chairs are asked to commit to a 3-year term, spanning until the end of the current grant funding.

Support for Working Group Co-Chairs

Working Group Co-Chairs must:

- i) Be established academics, based in an academic institution in low- and middle-income countries, and leading experts in a field relevant to the WG, with a track record of publishing high-impact papers in the field.
- ii) Have an excellent track record of securing research funding, and leading international grants.
- iii) Have a good understanding of the *Lancet* Countdown on Health and Climate Change. This could be through: previous engagement with the programme; contribution to one of the *Lancet* Countdown's indicator reports; or, extensive experience in the health and climate change working group field.
- iv) Have experience of successfully leading global academic collaborations.

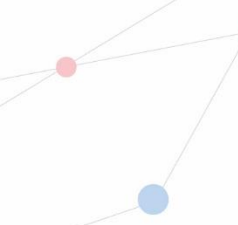
In addition, they will ideally:

- i) Have experience acting as a spokesperson for their own research, or for that of a research collaboration, in particular experience communicating scientific findings to media or at high-level policy events.

All applying Co-Chairs should be based out of a Low- and Middle-Income country.

Appointment Process

If you are interested in applying for this role, please submit the following documents to info@lancetcountdown.org, by **September 30th 2026**:

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- An academic CV
 - A cover letter of no more than 500 words, describing your commitment to this role, and outlining how your previous experience would help you to Co-Chair a Working Group

Indicate which of the three following Working groups you wish to apply to be Co-Chair of:

- Adaptation, Planning, and Resilience for Health (WG2)
- Mitigation Actions and Health Co-Benefits (WG3)
- Public and Political Engagement in Health and Climate Change (WG5)

All applications submitted will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. Following interviews, the Selection Committee will appoint the candidate who best meets the desired experience and personal qualities taking into account both interviews and application.

For more information on this role, please contact the relevant Working Group Chair:

- Adaptation, Planning, and Resilience for Health (WG2):
Prof Jeremy Hess jjhess@uw.edu
- Mitigation Actions and Health Co-Benefits (WG3):
Prof Ian Hamilton i.hamilton@imperial.ac.uk
- Public and Political Engagement in Health and Climate Change (WG5):
Prof Niheer Dasandi n.dasandi@bham.ac.uk

Note that, by sending your application to info@lancetcountdown.org, you are agreeing to your application being shared with relevant members of the Selection Committee.