Population, Environmental Risks, and the Climate Crisis

We pursue justice in the face of climate and environmental changes.

KEY IMPACTS

Research: Published over 60 peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals on migration, urbanization, and gender.

Thought Leadership: Convened side events at Women Deliver, UNGA, and COP28 on climate, education, and youth intersections.

Research Impact: Demographic modeling used by IPCC. Invited to closed-door workshops with Wilson Center and UNFPA, and to share webinars on climate for GIZ and SIDA.

Collaborations: Led project funded by the NYC Mayor's Office of Climate Resiliency with Columbia University, the New School, and CUNY Baruch to model future flooding risks.

PERCC
Data across borders and disciplines

The climate crisis is accelerating, posing existential threats to people and places around the world. Any successful response must combine mitigation, or reducing carbon emissions, with adaptation, or ways to cope with our new climate-related realities.

Right now, responses of both kinds are slowed, limited, and misallocated due to major gaps in scientific evidence. Programs are not coordinated across sectors; policies do not account for on-the-ground realities; and interventions fail to reach the people who are most impacted. The problems are especially acute for adaptation work, where solutions must be nuanced, highly targeted, and demographically refined.

PERCC offers answers. We conduct rigorous, innovative, cross-disciplinary social science research; use it to build publicly accessible datasets, tools, and models; and utilize our findings and insights to help shape climate adaptation policy and program planning at every level, from municipalities to national strategies and United Nations agencies. The Council's approach is underpinned by a climate justice lens, acknowledging that those who contribute the least to climate change are disproportionately harmed.

PERCC Goals
1. Link climate hazards to health outcomes
2. Develop programs for girls and young women, to thrive in green economies
3. Forecast future population dynamics shaped by the climate crisis with a focus on urban settings

How PERCC Works
PERCC drives progress and solutions at the intersections of climate, health, gender, and equity by connecting social scientists and public health experts with governments, climate scientists, civil society, and communities on the front lines of the climate crisis. In collaboration with the Council's network of 14 offices and affiliate organizations and our partners working across 50+ countries, PERCC has a track record of successfully collaborating with marginalized people in research and building the evidence base to inform effective and cross-cutting programs and policies.

PERCC does groundbreaking research in the social sciences, using methods from machine learning and quantitative surveys to qualitative and participatory approaches.

- We provide open access to our datasets, models, and tools, including interactive data visualizations, for the benefit of the wider community.
- We connect and convene experts from around the world, building networks for action and distilling and sharing key findings for diverse audiences.
- We collaborate with government and private sector decision-makers to shape critical climate policies and programs based on contextual robust evidence.
- We build capacity and offer training on innovative research methods at the intersection of climate and population sciences.

Projects and Programs

PERCC conducts research, evaluation, and learning efforts, collaborating with public and private partners to ask and answer critical questions about how, when, and where to act and whom to prioritize in climate adaptation plans. We focus on three main programs.

The Research, Evidence, and Analysis on Climate and Health (REACH) Project

REACH tracks both direct and indirect links between climate hazards and health outcomes, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), nutrition, and mental health.

Some of the most immediate risks globally are posed by extreme heat—48% of the world experienced 30+ days of health-threatening extreme heat this summer due to climate change.

In coastal communities, salinity also poses a critical risk: one billion people rely on drinking water endangered by sea level rise and coastal intrusion, the salinization of which is linked to hypertensive disorders that are a leading cause of maternal death.

Our goal is to scale evidence-based solutions for salinity to three new countries and work with 10 more municipal governments to inform heat action plans that will protect over 7.5 million vulnerable people.

The Girls' Resilience, Education, Empowerment, and Needs (GREEN) Project

12.5 million girls cannot attend school for climate-related reasons, and women are 14 times more likely to die in extreme weather events.

GREEN continues the Council's history of developing innovative girl-centered programs to improve the health, well-being, and economic power of women and girls. Our work focuses on building mentorship networks, and political educational, and economic alliances.

Our goal is to pilot curriculums in four more countries, giving girls new green skills in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, finance, and health.

The Integrated Models of People and Climate Across Time and Space (IMPACTS) Project

Our work on demographic projections is integrated with climate assessment models to predict future dynamics between climate and people. Those combined Integrated Assessment Models enable stakeholders to target plans for climate response.

IMPACTS includes open-access tools like the Community Demographic Model (CDM) as well as climate adaptation considerations for specific programs and policies. By pairing our data and models with surveys and qualitative research, PERCC triangulates realities on the ground and tracks large-scale patterns that are otherwise undetectable.

Our goal is to actively expand IMPACTS to cover 10 new geographies and share our work with diverse stakeholders developing adaptation and mitigation plans.

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