

# Climate Care Champions Program

Swasti



|                                               |                                                                                                                                   |                                                        |                                                                                                |                                                   |
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| <b>Location</b>                               | <b>Target group</b>                                                                                                               | <b>Budget</b>                                          | <b>SDGs</b>                                                                                    | <b>Additional partners</b>                        |
| Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh, India | Frontline health workers (ASHAs, ANMs, MLHPs, Medical Officers, MPHAS) and vulnerable communities at risk of heat-related illness | \$50,000 (2025 pilot) and \$100,000 a year (2026-2027) | SDG 3 (targets 3.4 and 3.8), SDG 10 (targets 10.2 and 10.3) and SDG 13 (targets 13.1 and 13.3) | Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education |

## Synopsis

Building capacity for frontline workers to prevent, identify and respond to heat-related illness and strengthening district-wide climate resilience.

## Program description

Extreme heat is emerging as one of the most immediate and visible health impacts of climate change in India. In districts such as Ananthapuramu, where high temperatures, water stress, and rural livelihoods intersect, vulnerable populations face growing risks of heat-related illness, particularly older people, young children, pregnant and lactating women, outdoor workers, and low-income households. At the same time, frontline health workers, predominantly women, carry the responsibility of protecting communities while navigating increasing climate pressures within already stretched systems.

Through our partnership with Swasti, we are strengthening district health systems to respond proactively to extreme heat. In 2025, we focused on equipping frontline workers with practical skills, multilingual tools, and structured mentorship, while embedding heat preparedness within the District Heat Action Plan. By aligning closely with government leadership, the Climate Care Champions Program (CCCP) is ensuring that climate-responsive health action becomes institutionalized within routine systems rather than remaining in a standalone intervention.

## Goals

- Build frontline workers' competencies to prevent, identify early, and manage heat-related illnesses.
- Strengthen referral and follow-up pathways to ensure timely care for high-risk individuals.
- Integrate heat preparedness into district systems through development of a District Heat Action Plan (HAP).
- Generate evidence on training effectiveness to support scaling within government systems.

## Activities and milestones

- Developed a comprehensive, heat-focused curriculum co-created with district stakeholders.
- Delivered a 4-day Training-of-Trainers (ToT) workshop for 90 nominated trainers, and cascaded training to 2,266 frontline workers across Primary Health Centres and Urban PHCs.
- Finalized and launched four bilingual educational and communications materials and detailed job aids for summer and monsoon seasons.
- Supported district government to develop a District Heat Action Plan, aligning frontline roles and referral pathways.
- Strengthened documentation of heat burden through systematic reporting of suspected and identified HRI case.

## Looking ahead

Building on success in Ananthapuramu, our partnership will expand to Guntur and Bapatla through a three-arm study comparing chatbot-only support, chatbot plus online training, and a blended in-person model. This will generate evidence on the most effective and scalable approaches to frontline climate-health preparedness.

Swasti will also work to integrate the CCCP curriculum into District Heat Action Plans and introduce heat-related illness indicators into their Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), enabling routine tracking of heat burden and strengthening long-term system resilience.



### Impact at a glance



**2,356**

frontline workers trained to prevent and manage heat-related illness



**90**

trainers certified through structured Training-of-Trainers workshops



**8,717**

suspected/identified heat-related illness cases recorded, strengthening district visibility of heat burden



**5,423**

individuals referred to health facilities for timely care



**4**

bilingual educational materials and job aids launched to support consistent frontline counselling



District Heat Action Plan developed (launch expected ahead of Summer 2026)

*“When [trainers] showed the steps: first check the pulse, make the person lie in shade and, give oral rehydration solutions; that gave me so much clarity. Now I know the order. I don't feel scared anymore. I feel like I can actually help.”*

**Lakshmi**

ASHA Worker, Ananthapuramu District