

Guidelines for the 2025 global Lancet Countdown report

This document contains guidelines for the 2025 global Lancet Countdown report. We really appreciate your adherence as they are essential to ensure the indicators can support a unified, cohesive story for our 2025 report, and that your data can be adequately interpreted and communicated as part of the broader Lancet Countdown activities. If you have any questions, please contact Maria Walawender (m.walawender@ucl.ac.uk).

Timeline for 2025 Report

DATE	MILESTONE	RESPONSIBLE
JANUARY	Every author group meet with Maria & Working Group fellow	Maria, fellows, author groups
EARLY MARCH	Authors submit initial draft of indicator text, appendix, and data file(s) to working group lead and fellow & submit data files to central team	Authors
31 MARCH	Working groups submit sections to central team	Working group leads
20 APRIL	<i>Easter</i>	
28 APRIL	First draft sent to authors	Secretariat
5 MAY	Comments/edits on first draft sent to central team	Authors
19 MAY	Second draft sent to authors	Secretariat
26 MAY	Comments/edits on second draft sent to central team	Authors
4 JUNE	Final draft shared with authors	Secretariat
6 JUNE	Sign-off on final draft	Authors
8 JUNE	Manuscript submitted to the Lancet	Secretariat

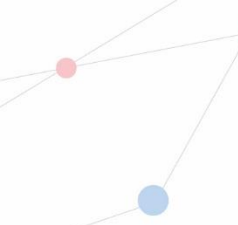
Overall Approach & Thematic Focus for 2025 Report

General approach

We had several discussions about the need to streamline our indicator reports, to reduce the number of indicators and allow for a more nuanced discussion within restricted word counts. Doing this requires a well-informed process of indicator prioritization, underpinned by an evidence-based update of our indicator frameworks (see document 05). Given the delay in

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starting the new grant of Lancet Countdown, the frameworks could not be updated in time to inform a major re-structuring of our reports. Given this, and the relative under-resourcing across the secretariats and WGs, the 2025 reports will therefore take a business-as-usual approach.

Regional report timing

During the 2023/2024 report cycle, we trialed a staggering of our global and regional report, to ensure each report got full attention at the moment of launch, and that we had multiple launches throughout the year. While this worked well in many ways (including attracting attention of specific stakeholders), it also meant much of the regional report data was published during the global launch, ahead of the regional launches, and that some of the novelty of regional reports (particularly in country-specific data) was lost.

With COP30 taking place in Brazil in 2025, a country that is covered by our Latin America Regional Centre, we will trial again a simultaneous launch of our regional and global reports. We will publish regional reports on the same day as global reports, as far as possible.

Themes for the 2025 reports

Given COP30 will be held in Brazil, it is particularly important that the Global and Latin America report are well aligned. The specific focus of the 2025 Global report will be defined later in the year. However, given COP 30 will focus heavily on equity, a prominent theme in the global report will be the just transition. We are in conversation with the Brazilian COP presidency, but it is likely that useful entry points for us will be energy security and energy access, with particular focus on the health co-benefits of just access to clean, renewable energy.

Other important focus that in a South American COP (although probably with less traction from the presidency) will be the agricultural sector, so we will also lean on the indicators on tree cover loss, agricultural emissions, and dietary transition.

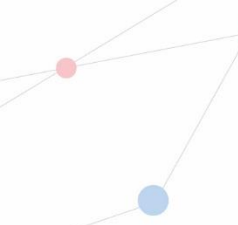
There will also be strong focus on Indigenous Peoples, particularly in the Amazon, which the Latin America team is well positioned to cover prominently. The global Lancet Countdown can take a global approach to this, and focus on Indigenous Peoples' health and biodiversity more broadly.

WG section Write-up

To facilitate the merging of WG sections, and the management of the ~20,000 word manuscript, we kindly request that you use [this template document in preparing the WG section](#) and [this template for the appendix](#). This template has pre-formatted headings, which make it easier to pull the whole manuscript together, including the formatting for heading and sub-headings, and standardised use of fonts. You can also use last year's report as a template (you can find the final word manuscripts for the main report and the appendix [here](#)), but please remember not to plagiarise the text.

WG Section Introduction

The section introductions and conclusions are very important, as we are assuming readers have minimal knowledge regarding the links between health, climate change, and policy responses. The introduction includes:

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1. A brief introduction to the concepts of the section. It is important that this includes an update of key developments of relevance to the section, which might have occurred in the year since the previous report was produced.
 2. A brief description of the key elements of the framework for how indicators fit within this section. As opposed to previous years, this framework description will be conceptual, and not go into the details of describing each indicator, or indicator group.

The introduction should be 200-300 words maximum

WG Section Conclusion

This section will describe the key takeaways of the section, with main overarching findings, and wherever appropriate key issues that still need exploring. It should be 200-300 words long, maximum.

Indicator Text

Each indicator section should be around 150 words and no more than 200 words, including the headline finding. New indicators will be allocated around 250 words, with no more than 300 words. In providing your indicator text, please include the following sections (length offered as guide):

- **Headline finding**: One sentence on the most interesting/important finding for this indicator. This **should include numeric findings** over time, not just main messages.
- **Background**: One to two sentences on why the topic covered by this indicator is important for both health and climate change. It is important that this description includes relevant and updated references. Please ensure this section cites the latest literature.
- **Methods**: One sentence description of methods to allow for a correct interpretation of the data:
 - If it is a new indicator, this can be more detailed
 - If it is an indicator that has been published before, this description should be very brief and reference the report or paper in which it was published
 - Reference the data being used, if relevant
 - IMPORTANT: If the methodology has been improved or modified with respect to the previous year, it is important that improvements are (briefly) described in the main text. This is critical to justify possible changes in retrospective data.
- **Results**: Two to three sentences summarizing key global findings and HDI comparisons. Please ensure that the text of the indicator includes the finding presented in the headline.
- **Discussion**: One to two sentences to discuss the findings and their implications. This should particularly focus on what the indicator tells us about the health and wellbeing benefits of urgent climate action.

Our report is crucially important as an annual review that exposes the latest findings on climate change and health. In such a fast-paced scientific field, it is therefore important that we avoid merely paraphrasing previous reports, and instead focus on exposing the latest information and scientific consensus in the text. Your help in identifying these is extremely valuable.



Presenting indicator findings

Please refer to [the indicator standardisation and analysis document](#) for further detail.

- Indicators should be presented to expose **changes in time (i.e., trends)**.
- When reviewing data, identify interesting findings and large or unexpected changes over time. Whenever possible, please aim at explaining and contextualising these findings.
- **Identify countries which stand out** in the findings, and flag these for the central team when submitting data. If appropriate, you can include these in the text (e.g., highlight a country in which the data reflects a notable event).
- **Reflect inequalities** by comparing HDI groups.

Figures and maps

- **Figures should clearly reflect the headline finding** of the indicator, and be easy to interpret by a non-expert audience.
- Whenever possible, individual country data, HDI groups, and WHO regions should be **presented graphically along with summarized values** (e.g., averages, medians). This helps exhibit variation between groups, and potential inequalities.
- If using maps, please use shapefiles highlighted above.
- Avoid showing figures where the change or finding is not clear and visible to the naked eye. For enhanced legibility, use distinct lines of contrasting thicknesses or use colour contrast.

Appendix

Given the limited space we have in the main body of the report, the Appendix is a crucial resource to explain in detail the indicator methodology, data sources, caveats, future improvements, as well as additional analyses. The appendix is widely accessed, and is a key companion to the main report. As such, we kindly ask all authors to ensure the data there is updated, complete, accurate, and clearly presented. The appendix also goes through peer review and thus must be to the standard of a paper published separately for each indicator.

Given the number of indicators, the appendix is very long, but for transparency and in support of research in the field of health and climate change, it is important to go into sufficient detail when describing each indicator. The layout is presented in full [in this template](#). You are welcome to add further information in the appendix, and there is no limit on word count or number of figures and tables.

Editorial Guidelines

Handling a ~20,000 word document can be challenging – and formatting it without word crashing, even much more so! For this reason, we ask that WGs follow these guidelines when preparing their manuscripts.

As above, we kindly request that you use these template documents in preparing [the main text](#) and [appendix](#) manuscripts.



Grammar & Consistency:

- The report is written in the passive form, not first person (i.e., “the data were analysed”, rather than “we analysed the data”).
- The word “data” is plural.
- Generally speaking, numbers one to ten are spelled out. Numbers greater than ten, numbers with decimal points, and numbers used as a specific unit of measurement should be presented as numbers (e.g., 11, 6.2 person-days).
- In the great Oxford comma debate, we do use a comma before the final “and” or “or” in a list of three or more items.
- Throughout the report, countries should be named [according to this sheet](#). These country names are largely compliant with WHO standards, although some exceptions have been taken for ease of communication.

References

- In prior years, we have had issues with the ownership of individual references, making it difficult or impossible for the Secretariat to edit references or consolidate duplicates.
- In a change from previous years, we ask that you include all references in a comment in your submitted Word document. Please include the [full citation in Vancouver style](#) and a link to the website of any materials available online (journal articles, news articles, books, speeches, etc.).
- Working group fellows and Maria will work on putting all of these references into a single library, which we hope to share in the future for ease of referencing.

All Links in Document:

- [Appendix write-up template](#)
- [Authorship criteria](#)
- [Country names and groupings for 2025](#)
- [Final Manuscripts for Report & Appendix: 2024](#)
- [Indicator standardisation and analysis document](#)
- [Lancet formatting guidelines](#)
- [Section write-up template](#)
- [Vancouver reference style](#)