

Asia's extreme April heat worsened by climate change, scientists say

By **Reuters** May 15, 2024 | 10:00 am GMT+7



Farmers shield themselves from the scorching sun while harvesting green onion on a farm in central Vietnam's Quang Ngai Province, April 28, 2024. Photo by VnExpress/Pham Linh

Extreme temperatures throughout Asia last month were made worse - and more likely - as a result of human-driven climate change, a team of international scientists said on Wednesday.

Billions of people across the continent were affected by record-breaking temperatures during April, with schools forced to shut down, crops damaged and hundreds of people killed by heat-related illnesses, climate experts from the World Weather Attribution group said in a report.



Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam experienced their hottest April days on record, while temperatures in India reached as high as 46 degrees Celsius (114.8 Fahrenheit), they said.

"From Gaza to Delhi to Manila, people suffered and died when April temperatures soared in Asia," said Friederike Otto, Senior Lecturer in Climate Science at the Grantham Institute of Climate Change and the Environment, one of the report's authors.

"Heatwaves have always happened. But the additional heat, driven by emissions from oil, gas and coal, is resulting in death for many people."

In the Philippines, one of the worst-hit countries, authorities issued health warnings, shut down schools and rationed electricity supplies as soaring temperatures threatened the country's power grid.

The 15-day heatwave, which started in the middle of the month, would have been "virtually impossible, even under El Nino conditions" without the impact of man-made global warming, the report said.

Parts of the Middle East saw record-breaking temperatures over April 24-26, with Tel Aviv hitting 40.7C. Extreme temperatures in western Asia were made five times more likely by climate change, the report estimated.

"The heat that we saw is really compounding an already dire crisis at the moment in Gaza," Carolina Pereira Marghidan of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre said at a briefing on Tuesday.

Temperatures around India's Kolkata in late April reached 46C, 10C higher than the seasonal average, with climate change making extreme temperatures throughout South Asia around 45 times more likely, the report added.

Asian governments need to take action to adapt to soaring temperatures and minimize health risks, particularly in vulnerable sections of the population, said Marghidan.

"Considering that rate at which extreme heat is rising... we see a big need for heat action plans to be scaled up and current plans to be improved across Asia," she said.



April temperatures in Indonesia hottest for more than four decades

Indonesia experienced its hottest April in more than four decades, two senior weather agency officials said Wednesday, as the region endures a suffocating heat wave and global temperatures break records.



Heat wave in Southeast Asia closes schools, triggers health alerts

The Philippines has closed schools down and warned of overloading on its power grid, as authorities across Southeast Asia issued a series of health alerts for a crushing and deadly heat wave.



Heat waves put millions of children in Asia at risk: UN

Massive heat waves across East Asia and the Pacific could place millions of children at risk, the UN warned Thursday, calling for action to protect vulnerable people from the soaring temperatures.



Saigonese battle blazing heat

With outdoor temperatures reaching 41 degrees Celsius, people have to fully cover themselves, seek shaded areas, and drink plenty of water to stay hydrated in HCMC.



Cambodia's famed Kampot pepper withers in scorching heat wave

Farmer Chhim Laem shakes his head as he walks between long rows of dead bushes, their brown leaves scorched by heat and drought that have devastated Cambodia's famed Kampot pepper crop.



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Pay attention kids, it's not science, it's politics. A short sample of failed climate change predictions.

1960's - Oil gone in 10 years. Peak oil. (nope)

1970's - Another ice age in 10 years (nope)

1980's - Acid rain will destroy all crops in 10 years (didn't happen)

1990's - The ozone layer will be destroyed in 10 years (Nope, ozone layer damage near Australia fixed itself)

2000's - The icecaps will be gone in 10 years. (Still here)

2010's - Oceans will start ...



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Subsidiary of VnExpress
License number: 71/GP-CBC, Ministry of Information and Communications, September 22, 2021

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