



To,
Sh. Arvind Kejriwal,
Chief Minister 3rd Floor,
A-Wing, Delhi Secretariat,
NEW DELHI-110001

Subject - Reminder to publish and implement the Heatwave Action Plan for Delhi

Respected sir,

It has been more than two months since we shared our [letter](#) requesting for the release of the Delhi Heatwave Action Plan. Since then, we have had approximately 18 days when the [maximum temperature](#) crossed 40 degrees Celsius in Delhi. Many agencies and studies, including the Indian Meteorological Department, had [predicted](#) that the temperatures in upcoming months will be higher than normal with a high probability of heatwaves occurring over many regions of central and adjoining northwestern India during this period. As we had pointed out, despite the [Ministry of Health's warning](#) that heatwaves are a cause of great concern and debilitating illnesses, it is unfortunate to find this display of indifference from the government towards this unfolding climate emergency.

During the 2022 heatwaves, more than [half of Delhi's population](#) faced devastating socio-economic and public health impacts. With [predictions of the El Nino](#) and its impacts starting from mid-2023, the nation is brazing itself for an even extreme summer. The Delhi government must waste no further time and publish and implement the Heatwave Action Plan (HAP) at the earliest to prevent human and economic casualties. We reiterate the following set of comprehensive demands to tackle the crisis:

1. Delhi Heatwave Action Plan should be released at the earliest and the draft should be published for public consultation before the end of June 2023.
2. HAP should involve scientific climate projections based on hyperlocal data from across Delhi.
3. HAP adaptation and mitigation measures should not be one-size-fits-all, but specialised to different vulnerable groups based on their exposure.
4. Early warning systems must disseminate the necessary information to forecast heatwaves and provide timely alerts to the public.
5. The government should identify the most vulnerable population including outdoor workers, women, children, differently-abled citizens and senior

citizens in order to provide focused support to these groups. This should include encouraging flexible working hours that allow for early morning or evening work hours to avoid the hottest and most-at risk hours of the day.

6. There should be sufficient policy integration for all HAPs, both vertically (across state, city and local bodies) and horizontally (across departments such as labour, health, agriculture etc.).
7. There should be a centralised funding mechanism for the implementation of HAPs among other adaptive measures.
8. HAPs should be made legally-binding through legislative action.
9. HAPs must focus on providing urgent healthcare for persons affected by heat stroke, including dedicated heatwave wards in public hospitals and kits available through Primary Health Centres (PHC).
10. HAPs should take into account nature-based cooling systems, thereby ensuring accessibility to green cover spaces as well as temporary cooling systems for citizens which are critical for seeking relief in case of a severe heatwave.