SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

ENERGY. CLIMATE.
DEVELOPMENT.

Sustainable Cooling: Balancing Comfort, Health and Climate Goals

SEAD Webinar
Cooling Solutions: Global Insights for Policy and Practice

22 JULY 2026



COMING SOON

Which communities risk not affording or accessing sustainable cooling?

Access risk in 77 countries with populations that face heat stress, lack cold chains, and have unmet comfort cooling needs

HIGH RISK		MEDIUM RISK	LOW RISK
			
RURAL POOR	**URBAN POOR**	**LOWER-MIDDLE INCOME**	**MIDDLE INCOME**
339 million	**746 million**	**2.43 billion**	**1.33 billion**
Vulnerable to heat stress, lack access to electricity and live in extreme poverty, and therefore unable to power cooling in the home. Many are likely to be subsistence farmers without access to an intact cold chain. May lack access to properly stored vaccines.	Vulnerable to heat stress, have limited or no access to electricity, poor quality housing likely does not protect from extreme heat. Income may not be sufficient to purchase or run a fan. May have a refrigerator, but food often spoils due to intermittent power.	May be able to purchase an affordable thus likely inefficient air conditioner or refrigerator. Limited purchasing choices available to this group favour cooling devices that are likely affordable, but inefficient, raising energy consumption and GHG emissions.	May be able to afford a more efficient air conditioner or minimize its use. May move to energy efficient housing and working environments.

Rapid urbanization and slow electrification hinder progress

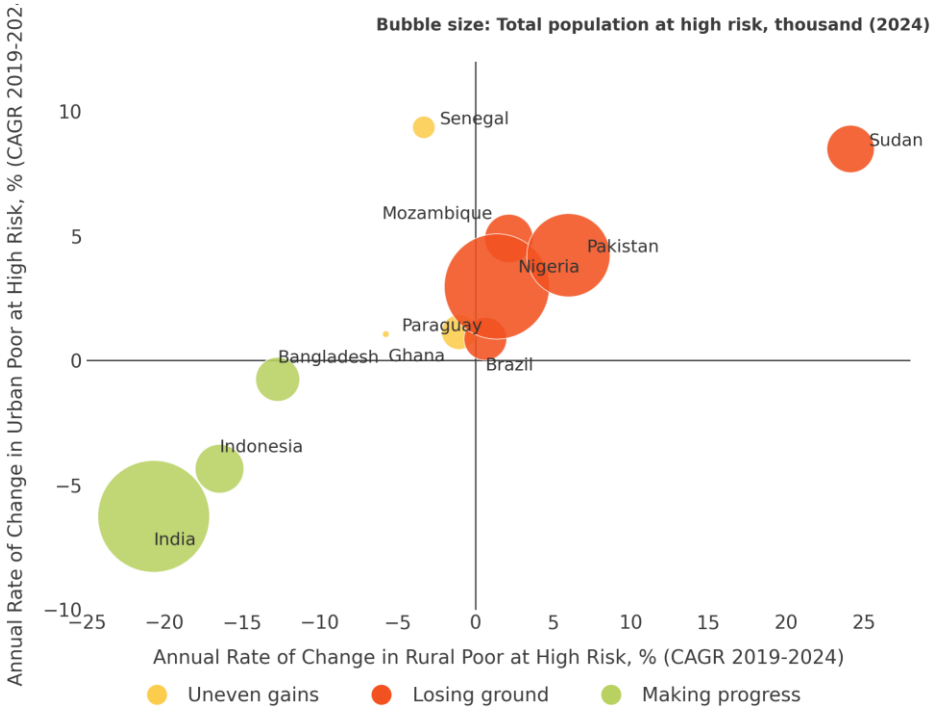
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Making Progress: Bangladesh, India and Indonesia are reducing high-risk populations in both rural and urban areas.

Uneven Gains: Senegal, Vietnam, Paraguay show rural gains but rising urban risk, reflecting unbalanced progress and urbanization challenges.

Losing Ground: Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sudan are among 19 countries with increasing high-risk populations in both rural and urban areas.

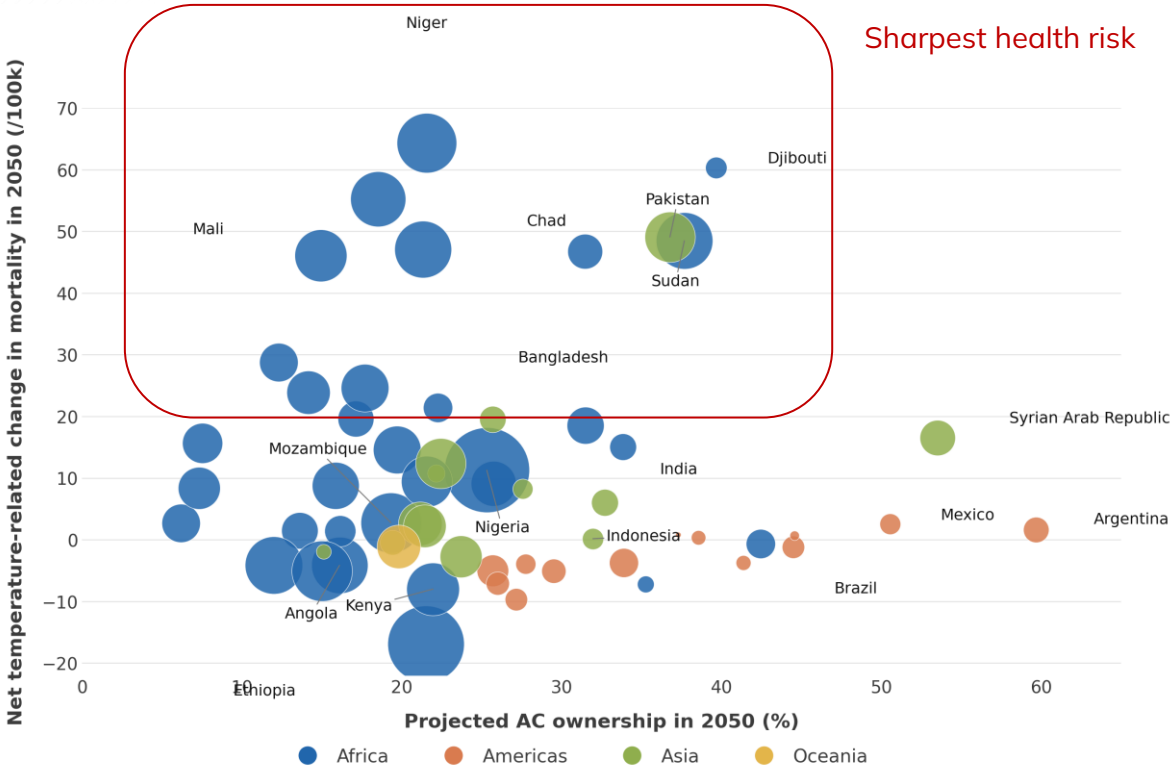
Increasing risk is linked to slow progress – or even **backsliding – in electricity access** or rapid growth in urban populations living in poverty or slums.



Source: SEforALL Chilling Prospects 2026

Converging risk: cooling access gaps and rising heat mortality

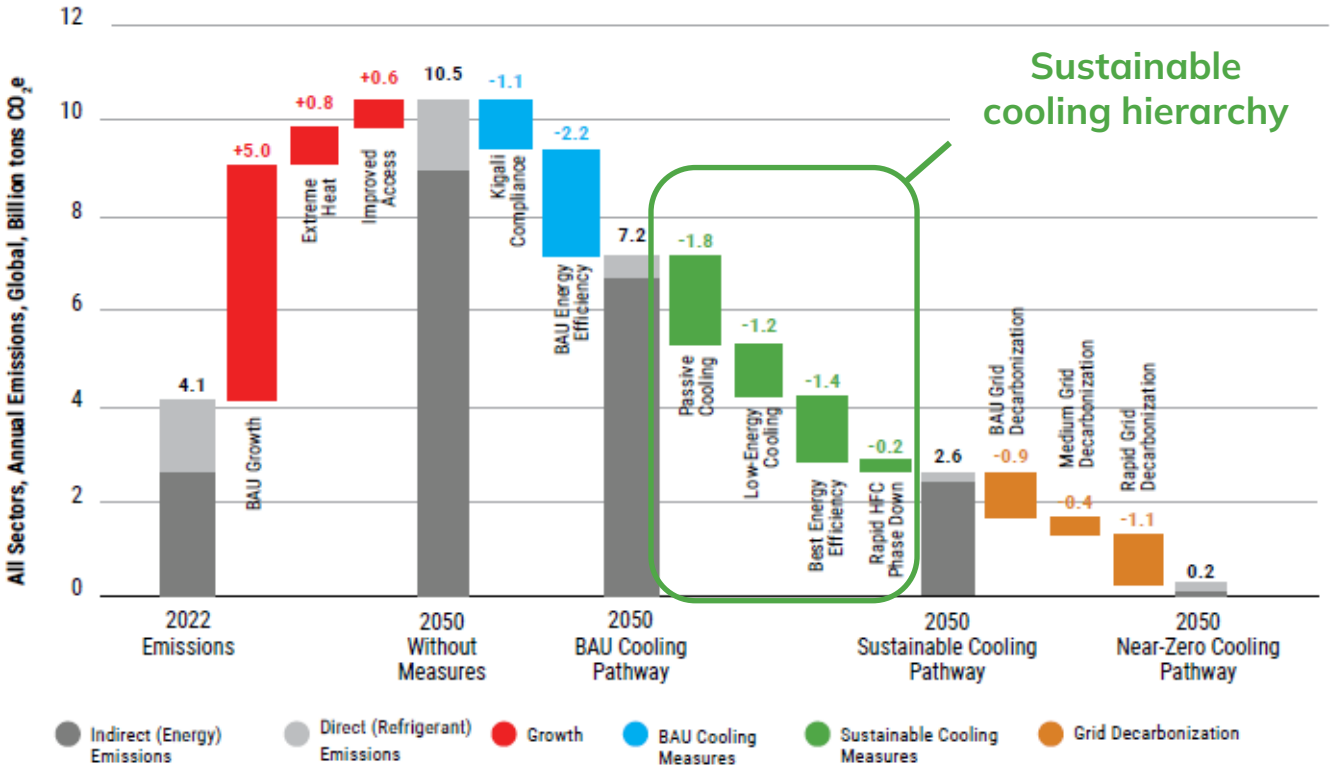
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Bubble size:
Current electricity access deficit (number of people)

Source: SEforALL Chilling Prospects 2026

Building resilience: closing the access gap, managing cooling demand



Source: UNEP Global Cooling Watch 2025

From commitments to action: resources



Global Cooling Pledge

Commitment to make *cut cooling-related emissions by 68% by 2050, while rapidly expanding access to sustainable cooling.* Implementation via:

- The Enabling Pledge Implementation Facility for Cooling
- Beat the Heat Implementation Drive



Scaling up initiatives to protect the most vulnerable

- Supporting heat action planning and passive cooling, including for the urban poor
- Integrating cooling into electrification initiatives and energy transition strategies
- Pilots for cooling solutions for the productive use of energy
- Financing to make cooling solutions affordable for all

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