

The COVID-19 crisis worsens with the occurrence of climate extremes and disasters

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Abstract: Climate change and the associated weather extreme events are a major threat to humanity as it affects agriculture and food security. Climate change disaster is on the increase as the global temperature keeps rising. Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been complicated by climate change and related extreme events especially with the imposed lockdown which has affected the global economy. The COVID-19 has killed over 4 million persons with the USA, Brazil and India being the worst affected nations. Thus, the multi-hazard scenario presented by extreme events like drought, flood and cyclones this period of the pandemic worsened its spread as it affected social distancing and personal hygiene as many people are crammed in camps and water become scarce for handwashing. It is suggested for countries to strengthen their emergency department by boosting the staff component, provide adequate technical support and develop detailed plans for multi-hazard preparedness.

Keywords: climate change, COVID-19, climate extremes, disasters, multi-hazards

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