



Article 25



HERA

iea



COOL TALKS

The UNEP Cool Coalition Webinar Series

Cool Talks spotlight innovative solutions, policies, and partnerships across the sustainable cooling landscape. From passive cooling and refrigerants to finance, technology, and just access, each session brings together global experts to exchange knowledge, inspire action, and accelerate progress toward a cooler, more resilient future.

Access to Cooling in the Age of Extreme Heat

Date: 27 August 2026

Time: 15:00 CEST / 09:00 EDT / 18:30 IST

Duration: 60 minutes

[REGISTRATION](#)

Background

Heat is now one of the deadliest consequences of climate change, with global heat-related deaths estimated at 546,000 per year and rising 63% since the 1990s. Yet this burden falls unevenly: it is greatest, and least well understood, across sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, where epidemiological methods built for temperate, high-income settings do not transfer easily and the true scale of heat vulnerability remains largely invisible. Africa, for instance, contributed just 3 of 237 studies in a recent global scoping review of heat-health research, despite carrying some of the most severe projected increases in heat mortality this century.

SEforALL's [Chilling Prospects](#) analysis estimates that over one billion of the world's rural and urban poor face high risk of lacking access to the cooling needed for heat resilience, leaving them exposed not only to heat illness and death but to lost income, spoiled food, and disrupted access to medicines and vaccines.

Closing this gap requires a hierarchy of complementary responses, from passive and nature-based measures that reduce heat exposure and cooling demand, to low-energy solutions such as efficient fans, and efficient mechanical cooling where needed. The appropriate mix will depend on climate, context, affordability and the thermal comfort needs of different communities.

This webinar, hosted under the Cool Coalition's Cool Talks series, brings together practitioners and technical experts to examine both the human cost of extreme heat and what an equity-first approach to cooling access could look like in practice.

Event Objectives

- Share the latest evidence on global heat mortality and cooling access gaps, and the specific data constraints affecting the Global South.
- Unpack the equity dimensions of heat vulnerability, examining who is most exposed and why cooling access is inseparable from poverty, electricity access, gender, and informal work.
- Present an equitable framing of cooling solutions across the full hierarchy, from passive and nature-based cooling to efficient fans and air conditioning, and examine the affordability and financing questions that determine which solutions are accessible in different contexts.
- Showcase practical, community-led approaches to heat resilience, including heat action planning and grassroots adaptation.

Agenda

Time	Item	Speaker
15:00 – 15:05 (5 min)	Welcome	Lorena de Carvalho Araújo , Passive Cooling and Energy Modelling Specialist, UNEP Cool Coalition
15:05 – 15:15 (10 min)	Chilling Prospects 2026: Cooling Access, Heat Vulnerability and Mortality	Giorgia Pasqualetto , Senior Specialist, Energy Efficiency and Cooling, SEforALL
15:15 – 15:45 (30 min)	Panel discussion: Equitable Approaches to Passive and Active Cooling Solutions	• Mary McBryde, Chief Program Officer, HERA • Siraz Hirani, Director Programs, Mahila Housing Trust • Toby Pear, Associate Architect, Article 25 • Fabian Voswinkel, Energy Policy Analyst, International Energy Agency
15:45 – 15:55 (10 min)	Q&A session	<u>Moderator:</u> Lorena de Carvalho Araújo , Passive Cooling and Energy Modelling Specialist, UNEP Cool Coalition



15:55 – 16:00 (5min)	Closing	Lorena de Carvalho Araújo , Passive Cooling and Energy Modelling Specialist, UNEP Cool Coalition
-------------------------	----------------	---
