Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment and overview of WHO’s policies and programmes

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OUTLINE

- The WHO global and regional policy references
- WHO guidance on assessing health vulnerability and adaptation
- Water as a source of health vulnerability.
- The WHO’s regional programme and initiatives on health and climate change
- Recommendations
Protecting health from climate change is one of the important priorities for WHO

- 1990-2005: WHO was building information base and evidence on health and climate change
- May 2008, 193 Members States of the World Health Assembly mandated WHO to lead global action to protect health from climate change.
- In October 2008, the 22 Member States of WHO Regional Committee passed resolution RC55.R8 on health and climate change:
  - Endorsed the **Framework for Action within Member States to Protect Health from Climate Change**
  - Mandated WHO/EMRO to provide technical and capacity building support to Member States
Framework for Action in Member States to Protect Health from Climate Change

- Assess health vulnerability
- Assess and prioritize adaptation options to protect health
- Plan adaptation interventions and programmes
- Implement adaptation projects and interventions.
- Assess the health impact (benefits and costs) of mitigation and adaptation interventions in other sectors
WHO Guides to Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment

- Guides under development
- Piloted in 8 countries
- Expected end of this year
- Intends to internalize V&A processes within management processes of the health systems
- Combines the vulnerability and adaptation
Framework for Vulnerability, Impact, and Adaptation Assessment

**Design**
- Stakeholder engagement

**Assess**
- **Vulnerability:**
  - Current burden of disease
  - Current health protection programs
  - Planned health protection programs

- **Impacts:**
  - Changing burden without climate change
  - Projected health impacts of climate change

- **Adaptation:**
  - Identify, prioritize additional interventions
  - Identify human and financial resources

**Evaluate**
- Health harms & benefits in other sectors
- Implement, monitor & evaluate
Public Health & Climate Change Linkages

**Climate change**
- Extreme weather
- Heat waves and cold periods
- Varied precipitation

**Direct health effects**
- Heat-related illness
- Death and injury

**Adverse effects on health determinants**
- Water
- Food
- Air
- Shelter and habitat
- Socioeconomics
- Conflict
- Population displacement
- Health services destruction
- Microbial contamination pathways
- Disease transmission dynamics

**Indirect health effects**
- Respiratory disease and allergies
- Water and foodborne disease
- Vector and rodent-borne disease
- Malnutrition
- Mental health impact

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Climate change, Water, Health and Nutrition Linkages

- Water scarcity
  - Reduced food production
  - Compromised drinking water quality
- Cities run dry: insufficient water for hygiene and health protection
- Wastewater used for food production
- Malnutrition
- Foodborne disease
- Food insecurity
- Waterborne disease

Determinants of health

Health outcomes

Climate change

World Health Organization

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WHO Regional Programme & Initiatives

- Regional capacity building initiative on health vulnerability and adaptation assessment: 1\textsuperscript{st} phase completed & 2\textsuperscript{nd} underway
- Water security for health in the face of climate change:
  - Drinking water safety
  - Drinking water availability
- National framework for health sector action to protect health from climate change - already done in 6 countries
- (WHO&UNDP) Global Project Piloting Adaptations to Protect Health from Climate Change (Jordan, China, Fiji, Bhutan, Uzbekistan, Barbados,
- Selected country projects
  - Jordan’s MDG-F project - adaptations to sustain MDGs health achievements (US$ 4.1 M)
  - Jordan’s GEF (US$ 0.75 M)
  - Tunisia’s health vulnerability and adaptation programme (GTZ supported)
Recommend broadening the scope of the water resources vulnerability assessment

- Water security for health:
  - Availability of domestic water
  - Safety of domestic water quality
- Water scarcity, agriculture productivity and food security
Thank you