

**Areas for Action: Suggestions for Follow-up
(Chapter 6)**

**Following up on adaptation programs development
at the national policy level**

**In order to have in place an efficient adaptation action
plan for all sectors, it is imperative that countries
should carry out the following necessary steps**

a) Carrying out National assessments

- National and regional national assessments of the potential health impacts of climate change must be carried out in order to provide needed information about future impacts on vulnerable areas and populations.
- Health impact assessments will provide information to an integrated climate change assessments, strategies or action plans.
- Key areas such as diarrhoeal disease, vector-borne disease and malnutrition should receive special attention in these assessments. However, a prerequisite to accurate assessment is to obtain accurate climate information at the local level, particularly on climate variability and extremes.
- The need for standardized methods and tools for such assessments is highly needed and authorities should shy away from the ad hoc style of assessments.

b) Establishing a Monitoring process to climate change impacts on human health

- Monitoring to assess climate-change impacts on health requires data gathering coupled with analytical methods for quantifying the climate-attributable part of diseases that climate change is likely to cause incremental changes in their frequency and distribution.
- Standardized long-term monitoring of related indicators could provide direct evidence of climate-change impacts on health. long-term surveillance should be able to detect variables with associations between climatic changes and disease incidence.
- In order to achieve this important goal, it is imperative that authorities develop standardized surveillance methods of climate-sensitive health areas in order to strengthen the already existing systems designed to detect climate change impacts on human health.
- Health data and information should also be made available to all research institutions especially those with linkage to climate and determinants of vulnerability.

c) Developing effective Adaptation strategies and policies

- Implementation of adaptation strategies will play an important role in reducing the adverse health impacts of climate change. The effectiveness of adaptation strategies will depend upon cultural, educational, managerial, institutional, and legal and regulatory practices at the national and regional levels.
- The existence of a sound and broadly-based public health infrastructure (including environmental management, public education, food safety regimes, vaccination program, nutritional support, emergency services and health status monitoring) is a pre requisite to have an efficient adaptation program.
- Other health-directed policies in other sectors, including transport, urban planning, industry, agriculture, fisheries, energy, water management and so on are needed to complement such a program.
- Need for research on barriers and opportunities for enhancing adaptive capacity in order to protect human health, as well as potential interactions with ongoing development projects and programs.
- Research needed on the processes of “adaptation decision-making”, including identifying the roles and responsibilities of individuals, communities, nations, institutions and the private sector in adaptation.

Example on how to move from science to policy

Instruction:

- This example deals with discussion on how to utilize scientific research results to design an adaptation program in the health sector.
- Uncertainty has to be discussed first and then to come up with a reasonable planning scenario for adaptation in the health sector.

Example on how to move from science to policy

The following items will be discussed in this exercise:

1. Level of expected uncertainty in the research outcome (justify your answer)
2. Suggested climate change impacts on the health sector according to the research results outline in the research summary shown below.
3. Under each of the below categories detail all possible measures, plans or strategies for health adaptation of climate change to improve the resilience of the country to climate change impacts
 - governance and policy
 - health adaptation implementation
 - Financing and costing mechanisms
 - health benefits from climate change mitigation

This Morocco profile includes information related to the health sector profile as well as other related sectors are a prerequisite to this exercise (Handout).

Following up on adaptation programs development at the Global Policy level

Health impacts of cc can be identified and quantified by the availability of accurate and comprehensive information and through adopting sophisticated tools and methodologies that can be used by highly specialized public health professionals with skills that will allow managing such impacts and putting in place sophisticated and efficient adaptation programs into the health and water sector with IWRM process as the corner stone of such programs.

Current research efforts to better understand climate change health impacts at the regional and global levels is insufficient and the scope of this research is not wide to include all the required aspects of this dimensions.

The following steps to be taken and adopted:

At the regional level:

Countries of the region should:

- Develop climate change policies and strategies and integration of adaptation programs into the health and water policies and strategies based on their national circumstances that would include health as a focus area taking into consideration the regional vision through regional networks and committees towards developing robust regional actions plans.
- Establish a regional task teams to undertake the required work on climate change health vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning and include the IWRM process into the task force mandate.
- Use standardized tools and methodologies when undertaking assessment of vulnerability to climate change with focus on health.
- Include two specific programs in the regional committees mandate and to be included in the regional adaptation action plans.
 - These are:
 - » integrated environment and health surveillance; and
 - » strengthening of health systems

The International bodies and agencies

- Implement technical support programs towards adopting standardized methods and tool for the assessment of climate change vulnerability focusing on health for different regions of the world.
- Facilitate the creation a network of experts for the assessment of vulnerability in the health sector due to climate change.
- Facilitate the creation of a data bank for the information related to the impacts of climate change on health in the region.
- Facilitate and support different countries establish resilience and adaptation public health objectives and targets for public health country adaptation planning.
- Develop a climate change and health vulnerability assessment and adaptation capacity building program with specific tools taking into consideration the different countries circumstances and capacities.

The UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies

- - To emphasize the need to include the health issues as focus in order to reach a more resilient system of adaptation to climate change for the countries.
 - To institute technical and financial assistance mechanisms for EMR countries to facilitate the achievement of resilience and adaptation of public health objectives and targets.



**THANK
YOU**