

Draft recommendations

WE the delegates from the ASEAN countries Indonesia, LaO PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, participating in the Regional workshop "The impact of climate change on health", held from 16 to 18 June 2009, in Jakarta, Indonesia and organized by the French Government with the support of Ministry of Health, Government of Indonesia and WHO,

Aware of the increasing importance of the serious threats posed by global warming and climate change and (climate variability) to human health,

Recognizing the commitment of the Member States to implement the 2008 and the 2009 World Health Assembly resolutions on climate change and health,

Taking into account that the impact of climate change on health figures as a priority in the agenda of the French government and of WHO,

Understanding the urgency to develop and implement mitigation and adaptation plans to reduce the potential disease burden related to the impact of climate change,

Recommend the following priority actions:

Increase awareness on the impact of climate change on health amongst:

- Health staff at all levels, in particular community based health workers;
- Policy makers in the health and other related sectors;
- Legislators;
- Academicians;
- Non medical professional groups;
- Local authorities;

- Civil society, including community based NGO's, mass organizations such as women unions, trade unions and youth unions, business sector;
- School teachers and school children;
- Religious groups;
- Mass media;
-

By, inter alia:

- Developing a specific communication strategy;
- Health sectors demonstration of greenhouse gas reduction;
- Developing educational materials for various audiences , including children;
- Holding national and local seminars for the general public to disseminate information on how climate change will impact health;
- Organising awareness campaigns

Develop the capacity of the health sector to better respond to the challenges ahead by:

- Developing training curricula on how to protect health from climate change adapted to the various audiences;
- Conducting training sessions for health professionals on impact of climate change on health;
- Organizing training on data collection and analysis courses;
- Institutionalizing courses on climate change on health in medical colleges and other establishments for higher education;
- National and international collaboration including participation to national/international conferences
- Ensuring the participation of health representatives as members of the national delegation attending integrating COP15 in Copenhagen in December 2009;

Develop and implement mechanisms and strategies to increase the importance of human health impacts in national policies and action plans aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change, including:

- Nominating official climate change focal points and action teams in the ministries in charge of health;
- Analyzing existing local, national regional and global climate action strategies, including UNFCCC and IPCC documentation;
- Prepare country profiles national and health action plans addressing climate threats, if possible using existing data collected for the preparation of NEHAPs, MDG projects or other similar documentation;
- Identifying and collaborating with the key institutions and players addressing climate change at national level;
- Identifying issues and opportunities to highlight the health dimensions;
- Pro actively incorporating national committees and other decision making instances to integrate health related issues;
- Participating actively in local, national, regional and global for a determined to tackle the challenges posed by climate change;
- Setting up and maintaining electronic information exchange networks;
- Contributing the national position papers to be presented at the COP15 in Copenhagen in December 2009;
- Ensuring the participation of health representatives as members of the national delegation attending integrating COP15 in Copenhagen in December 2009;

Carry out applied research to collect evidence-based data to:

- Strengthen existing surveillance systems, and use epidemiological and meteorological data, and considering the specificities of the local ecosystems, establish the type and significance of correlations between infectious and non infectious disease and climate variables;

- Development of appropriate modelling on health risk/health impact assessments;
- Identify the vulnerable groups and ecosystems;
- Collect data for risk factors and mapping;
- Develop generic research protocols;

Engage with national partners in the governmental, NGO and business sectors at local, national international levels, including professional associations and religious groups as well as the French government and WHO, to:

- Support actions on climate change initiatives with experts and other relevant organisations;
- Support technically and financially in the development of national action plan, advocacy and training materials;
- Mobilize resources including fundings to address health activities related to climate threats;
- Support integrative actions to empower local communities to render them more climate resilient;
- Conducting training sessions for key-stakeholders related to civil sectors;

All above strategies need to be considered in line with both short-term and long-term action plans, implementation and sustainability.