

# Climate Change Breakfast Briefing

Ramsook Loykisoonal  
Deputy Director: EH  
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**health**

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Overview of Presentation

1. What are the impacts of climate change on health sector
2. How do the health sector plan to reduce & manage vulnerability in a changing environment
3. Role of health sector in reducing exposure & vulnerability
4. What is health sector doing to promote synergy, strengthening engagement & raising awareness
5. Implications of LTAS report on health sector & future planning

# 1. What are the impacts of climate change on health sector

- Direct exposure through weather related events (droughts, rising sea levels, floods, cyclones, hurricanes, etc)
- Indirect exposure through weather or climate related impacts on food, water, air, infrastructure, agriculture, ecosystems and livelihoods
- Social and economic disruptions

## 2. How do health sector plan to reduce & manage vulnerability in a changing climate

- DoH has initiated in collaboration with WHO SANA process (May 2013).
- Assist & support in assessment of health & environment vulnerability to climate change in country.
- Identification of climate change sensitive environmental risk factors to human health & risk levels determined.

# How do health sector plan to reduce & manage vulnerability in a changing climate (cont...)

- Establishment of baseline situation of national capacities for sound management of identified risks.
- Identification of required capacities & determination of capacity gaps.

# 3. Role of health sector in reducing exposure & vulnerability

- Prevention (hazardous environmental exposures & ill health resulting in cost-effectiveness).
- Community participation (Involving local communities in planning & implementation of actions)
- Equity (Poorest & vulnerable groups)
- Evidence based planning (Evidence from national & local vulnerability assessments, data from surveillance programmes & research conducted)

# Role of health sector in reducing exposure & vulnerability (cont...)

- Intersectoral cooperation & collaboration (Development of partnerships & mechanisms between health & non-health sectors).
- Synergies between climate change adaptation & other public health initiatives (SANA process/NHI/Re-engineering of PHC).

## 4. What is health sector doing to promote synergy, strengthening engagement & raising awareness

- Implementation of SANA process
- Development & distribution of IEC material to provinces & municipalities on awareness raising
- Proposed actions in terms of NCCHAP:
  - Establishment of NCCH steering committee with working groups
  - IEC interventions
  - Monitoring & surveillance



# What is health sector doing to promote synergy, strengthening engagement & raising awareness (cont...)

- National vulnerability assessments
- Research & development
- Health impact assessments
- Intersectoral action for climate change & health
- Health system readiness
- Model/pilot climate change & health adaptation projects
- International information exchange & cooperation
- Scale up existing public health interventions

## 5. Implications of LTAS sector report on health sector & future planning

- Strengthen collaboration, cooperation & coordination with sectors/Depts/stakeholders
- Strengthen integration or linkage of cross-cutting issues with all relevant sectors/Depts/stakeholders
- More research required on key health risks (heat stress; vector-borne dxs; food insecurity, hunger & malnutrition; natural disasters; air pollution; commun. dxs & mental health.

## 5. Implications of LTAS sector report on health sector & future planning (cont...)

- Implementation of an essential public health package to strengthen climate change resilience status
- Advocacy by mainstreaming potential public health impacts of climate change
- Establishment of a governance structure (NCCH Steering Committee)

# Thank you

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