

RESPONSE TO THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HEALTH IN TANZANIA



SUMMARY

In Tanzania, the health and wellbeing of the population is closely tied to environmental factors, many of which are influenced by climate change. Tanzania is already experiencing increased climate variability and climate change, resulting in increasing temperature, late rainfall onset, decreasing rainfall amounts and shifts in rainfall patterns.

According to the WHO UNFCCC Climate Change and Health Country Profile for Tanzania, under a high emissions scenario, mean annual temperature is projected to rise by about 4.7°C on average from 1990 to 2100. Vector-borne diseases, diarrheal diseases and malnutrition are all influenced by seasonal, inter-annual climate variability, and are predicted to increase with increasing temperatures.

Tanzania is making great strides in building appropriate responses and national policies in response to the many potential impacts of climate change. These include effectively communicating how climate affects health, and empowering professionals to discuss the science and practice around climate and health.

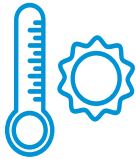
RELEVANT POLICIES AND COMMITMENTS

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992)
- The Kyoto Protocol (2002)
- The Environmental Management Act (2004)
- The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA – 2007)
- The National Climate Change Strategy (2012)
- National Climate Change Finance Analysis (2013)
- The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)



STRATEGIC APPROACH

1.



THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH COMMUNICATION STRATEGY (NCCHCS)

NCCHCS was developed by the Tanzanian Ministry of Health in 2016. The strategy guides the Government of Tanzania in communicating the role of climate change and climate variability in health and outcomes to various audiences with the ultimate goal of preventing the impact of climate change from eroding the country's progress in health.

2.



THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES (GFCS)

Established by the WHO, the GFCS has supported a range of capacity building initiatives in Tanzania linking climate change and seasonal variation and health including training initiatives with the Ministry of Health, district health professionals, regional Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) focal people, and media personnel. A key product of this work was a training manual for use in health education centres.

3.



THE CLIMATE SERVICES ADAPTATION PROGRAMME IN AFRICA

This programme, the first multi-agency initiative implemented under the GFCS, aims to increase the resilience of people most vulnerable to the impacts of weather and climate-related hazards through the development of user-driven climate services for food security, health, as well as disaster risk reduction. This programme has contributed to work in Tanzania that includes vulnerability assessments, cholera assessments and a range of advocacy work.

4.

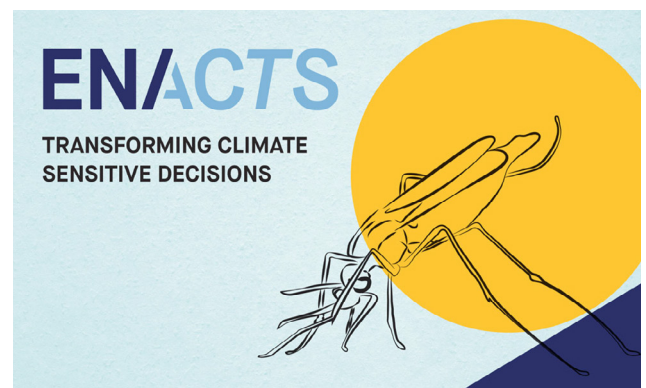


THE ENHANCING NATIONAL CLIMATE SERVICES (ENACTS) INITIATIVE

This initiative, supported by the GFCS and led by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society, is designed to bring climate knowledge to national decision makers by improving availability, access to, and use of climate information. The Tanzania Malaria Control Programme is applying a user-friendly online platform called the TMA Maproom, developed by the Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) in collaboration with ENACTS, to aid in the forecasting of malaria epidemics and to help plan where and when health supplies should be distributed.



Panorama of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Photo credit: Muhammad Mahdi Karim



The ENACTS initiative contributes to climate-informed decision making in Tanzania.



HISTORY OF CLIMATE AND HEALTH ACTIONS IN TANZANIA SINCE LIBREVILLE 2008

- 1** **AUG 2009** Tanzania signs the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa.
- 2** **JAN 2012** A national stakeholder workshop is held to validate the final draft of the National Climate Change Strategy.
- 3** **FEB 2014** The GFCS Climate Services Adaptation Program for Africa in Tanzania kick-off meeting is held in Dar es Salaam.
- 4** **MAY 2014** The Tanzania National Consultation Workshop for Climate Services is held in Dar es Salaam.
- 5** **AUG 2014** The Roll Back Malaria Partnership holds an executive briefing on strengthening national climate data and information for malaria decision-making in Africa.
- 6** **DEC 2014** The WHO develops communication materials on climate and health for Tanzania.
- 7** **JULY 2015** The Tanzania Meteorological Agency and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) conduct a training workshop in Dar es Salaam on climate modelling for weather experts from Tanzania and Malawi.
- 8** **JAN 2016** The Government of Tanzania publishes a National Climate Change and Health Communication Strategy.
- 9** **APR 2016** Tanzania signs the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016.
- 10** **OCT 2016** A four-day training is held in Morogoro with 33 participants, mostly health officers from around the country.
- 11** **NOV 2016** Tanzania hosts the Programme Steering Committee for the GFCS Adaptation Programme in Africa.

NATIONAL POLICY RESPONSES



The WHO and UNFCCC Climate and Health Country Profiles (2015) provide a standard framework for gauging national policy responses to climate and health issues. The table below shows the latest information for Tanzania, in terms of the status of development or implementation of climate resilient measures, plans for strategies for health adaptation and mitigation of climate change. This information was updated in 2016.



GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

- Country has identified a national focal point for climate change in the Ministry of Health ✓
- Country has a national health adaptation strategy approved by relevant government body ✗
- The National Communication submitted to UNFCCC includes health implications of climate change mitigation policies ✓



HEALTH ADAPTATION IMPLEMENTATION

- Country is currently implementing projects or programmes on health adaptation to climate change ✓
- Country has implemented actions to build institutional and technical capacities to work on climate change and health ✓
- Country has conducted a national assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation for health ✗
- Country has climate information included in Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system, including development of early warning and response systems for climate-sensitive health risks ✗
- Country has implemented activities to increase climate resilience of health infrastructure ✗



FINANCING AND COSTING MECHANISMS

- Estimated costs to implement health resilience to climate change included in planned allocations from domestic funds in the last financial biennium ✗
- Estimated costs to implement health resilience to climate change included in planned allocations from international funds in the last financial biennium ✗



HEALTH BENEFITS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

- The national strategy for climate change mitigation includes consideration of the health implications (health risks or co-benefits) of climate change mitigation actions ✓
- Country has conducted valuation of co-benefits of health implications of climate mitigation policies ✗