

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

EXPERIENCES AND

CHALLENGES

BARBADOS

Regional Health experiences in CC

Successes have been dependent mainly on external funding and technical advice (PAHO, GEF, Health Canada, WMO, CIMH, CARPHA).

Example: Integrated vector control project in Grenada - PAHO, Barbados through the GEF Climate change and health project

GEF Climate Change and Health project

The project specifically:

Highlighted Climate Sensitive Diseases (CSD) due to water scarcity, water quality, and insect vector proliferation (*Aedes egypti* mosquito).

Benefits from the Project

- Integration of Climate Information into Health Surveillance (Early Warning Systems).
- Improved technical capacity of field practitioners to respond effectively to early warnings.
- Improved... inter-disciplinary collaboration and communication within all levels of the Ministry of Health.
- Strengthened intersectoral collaboration with other key governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Additional Benefit

- Exposed key stakeholders (Water and Health) to established adaption measures in operation in a similar water stressed environment (Jordan - Middle East).
- Potential challenges identified to be potential resistant attitudes at the operational and policy levels towards reusing wastewater

Successes

SMART Hospital Project (7 Countries)

- Health care facility resilient to disasters (Structural soundness, water availability, solar electrical power, fire safety)-see PAHO poster board
- Hospital Safety Index:

General Outcomes for the Health sector

The outcomes mainly capitalise on opportunities created by the projects. I.e. operational deficiencies in some climate sensitive operations were addressed through the development of resilient systems and improved technical collaboration.

Improved Systems and Services

Challenges

- Health has not been a priority for CC
- Policy decisions are slow therefore implementation of specific interventions/adaptions in critical areas are hindered. *E.g. Wastewater reuse in various applications*
- In many cases No clear implementation plans for longterm adaption are incorporated into the development of technical adaptation plans and policies
- Unfortunately major external agency support is required for initiation of projects

Challenges

- Limited resources
- limited staff
- Overburdened
- Hinder potential opportunities