

Asia-pacific Climate
Change Adaptation
Forum2011

Strengthening of Health Sector Preparedness on Climate Change Adaptation in Western Pacific Region

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Climate change Impact on Health

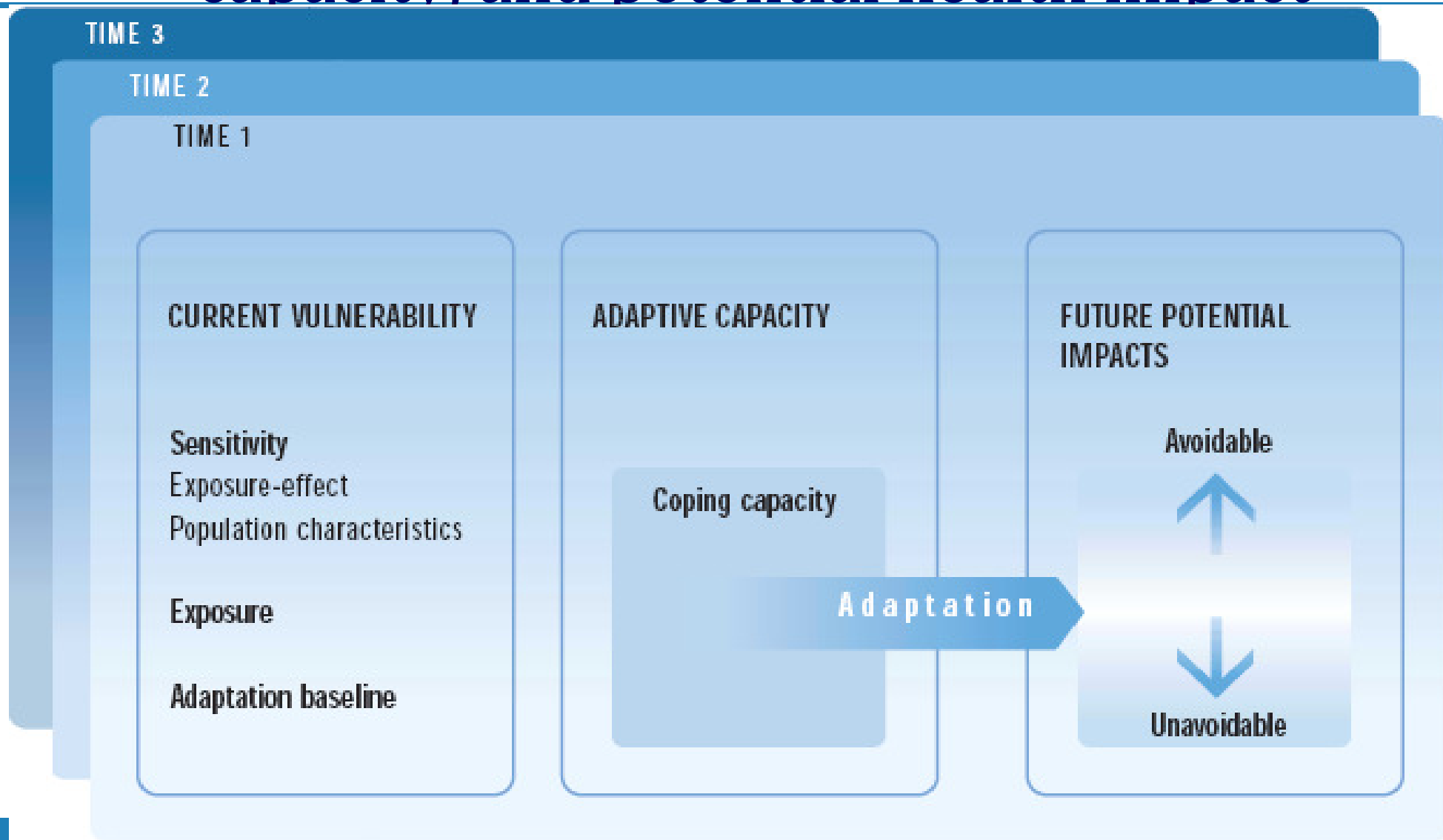
WHO estimates that the climate change that has occurred since the 1970s already kills over 140,000 per year.

- **Climate Change undermines the environmental determinants of health** (Without effective responses, climate change will compromise water quality and quantity, food security, control of infectious disease and protection from disasters)
- **Some of the largest disease burdens are climate-sensitive** . (undernutrition, diarrhoea, Malaria, and extreme weather events kill 3.5 million, 2.2 million, 900,000 and 60,000 each year)

Health impacts are unfairly distributed in globally (cumulative emission of green house gas vs WHO estimated *per capita* mortality from CC)

Increases in diseases of poverty may be even more important

Relationship between vulnerability, adaptive capacity, and potential health impact

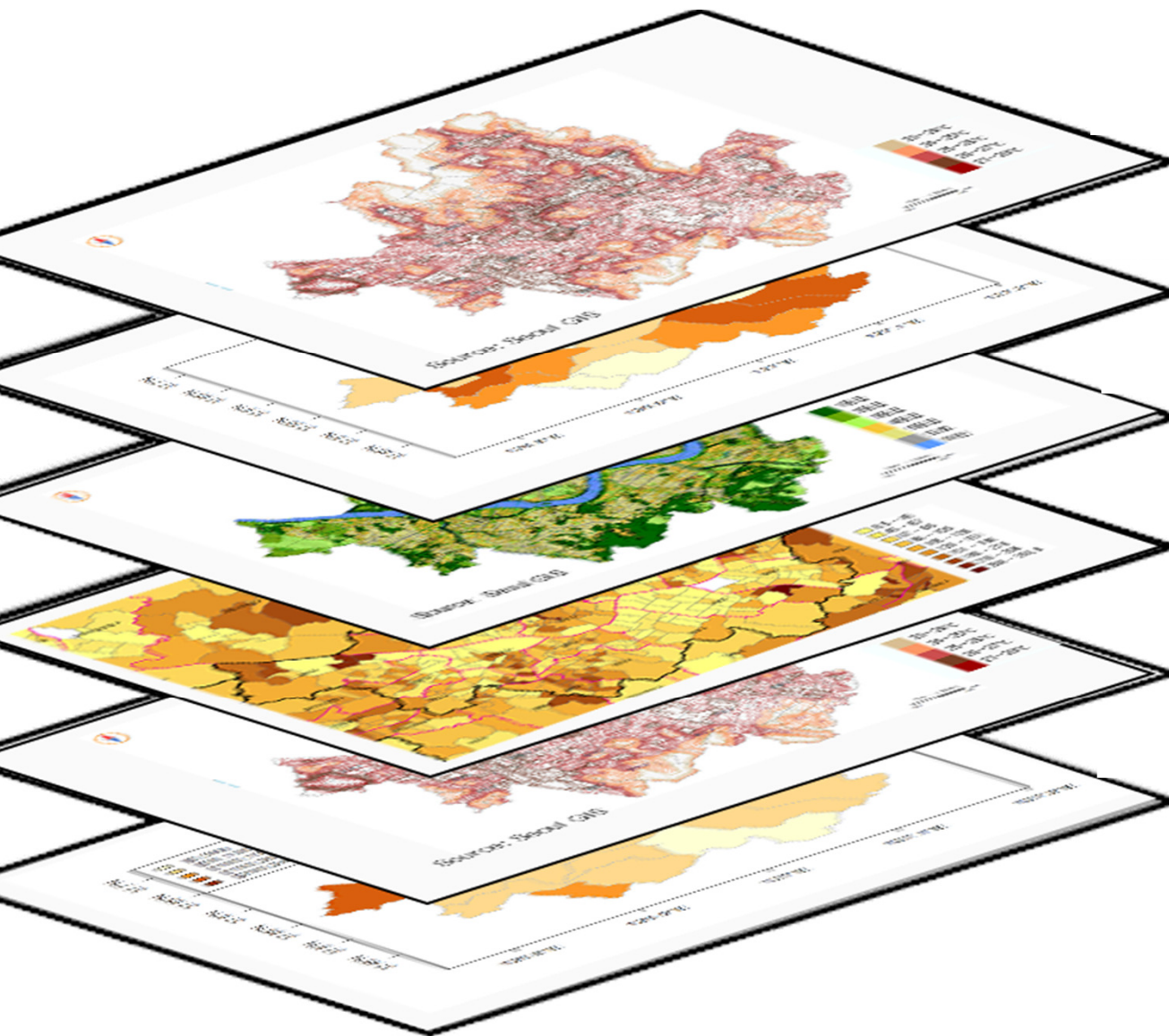


(Ebi et al, UNEP series 21)



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Layers of vulnerability assessment



Layer1: Distribution of climate factors

Layer2: Geographic distribution of diseases

Layer3: Environmental factors

Layer4: Susceptible population

Layer5: Socioeconomic status

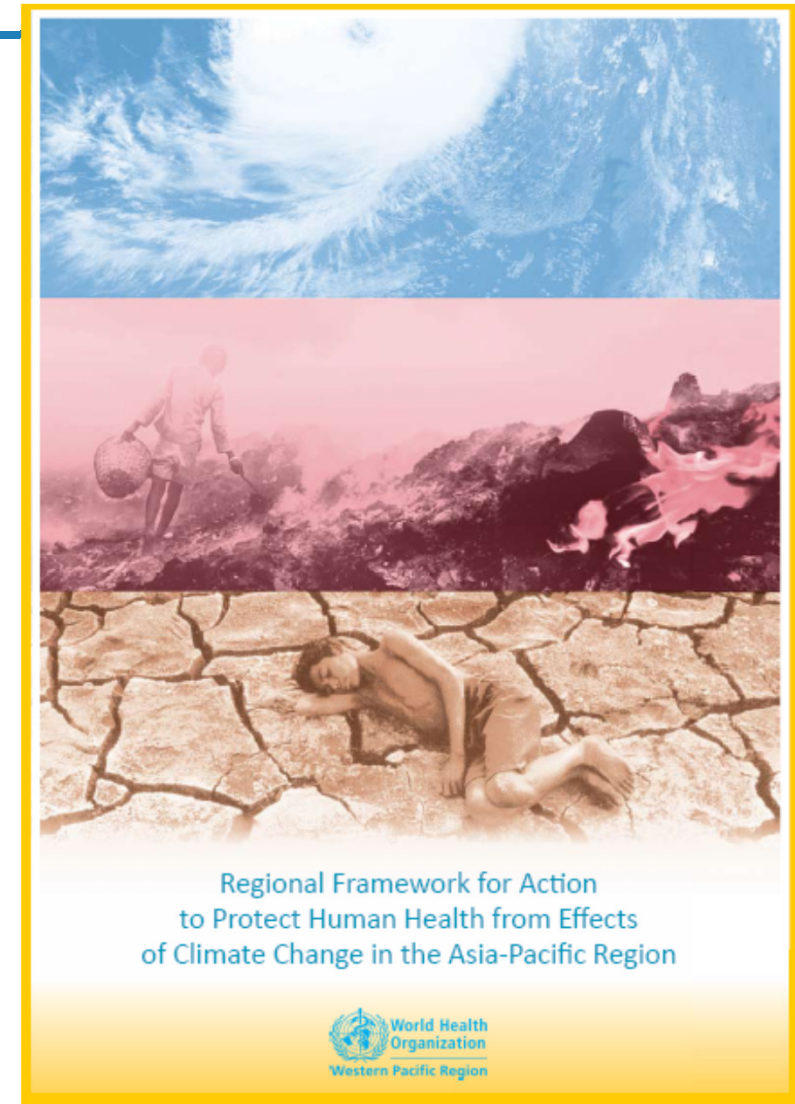
Layer6: Health care system
(Intervention)



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Regional Framework on Climate Change, 2008

- **59th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific**
 - http://www.wpro.who.int/rcm/en/rc59/rc_resolutions/WPR_RC59_R7.htm
- Awareness of health consequences
- Strengthen health systems capacity, and reduce GHG emissions in health systems
- Ensure health concerns are addressed and integrated in decisions in different key developing sectors



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CC & H program

(Country Support Program, 2009-)

WHO-WPRO supporting area

- Health vulnerability assessment
- Development and implementation of national strategies/action plans
- Capacity building in health adaptation to climate change
- Promotion of co-benefit (i.e. reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving health) approach in different sectors (e.g. transport, agriculture, energy, housing, etc.)

Collaborating countries

- Mongolia, Cambodia, Samoa, Papua New Guinea (2009-2012)
- Pacific Island 11 Countries and Laos (2010-2012)
- Fiji (GEF), Lao PDR (UNDP), Viet Nam (UNDP), China (GEF), Philippines (Spanish MDG funds)



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Mainstreaming Adaptation into Development: Adaptation in Action (recommended Action from RF)

	Awareness	Strengthening Health System response on CC	Integration of Health & Development Decision
Country	<p>VA</p> <p>Studies on health implications of climate change</p>	<p>NHSAP integrated with existing national plans</p> <p>Projected CC incorporated into health policies, plans and programs</p> <p>Infrastructure & Interventions (surveillance, disaster management, early warning, local adaptation)</p> <p>CC focal point & mechanisms in national health institution</p> <p>GHG emission reduction</p>	<p>Develop integrated strategies to incorporate current & projected CC risks into existing policies of key development sectors to control CC sensitive health outcomes (transport, clean energy, disaster risk management)</p> <p>Health sector to participate in national communications to UNFCCC</p>
WHO	<p>Tech Guidance on VA</p> <p>Regional Knowledge sharing and Networking</p>	<p>Support capacity building, training</p> <p>Technical guidance on good practices</p>	<p>Regional center or WHO collaborating center supporting integration of health and development decision</p>



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Benefits of healthy mitigation measures

Sustainable urban transport – could cut heart disease and stroke by up to 20%

Improved stoves could save 2 million lives over 10 years in India alone, and reduce warming from black carbon.

Health benefits from actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions could substantially offset mitigation costs



"while the climatic effects of mitigation measures are long-term and dispersed throughout the world, the health benefits are immediate and local" –
WHO director-General Margaret Chan, 2009



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Health system strengthening: Identification of principles for health adaptation

- We have proven, cost-effective interventions against every climate-sensitive health impact.
- Clean water and sanitation, vector control, disaster risk reduction, early warnings, humanitarian aid...
- All of these are "win-wins": saving lives now, and reducing vulnerability to climate change.
- Adaptation to climate change is part of a preventive approach to public health – not a distraction.

Wendy Hans Everts



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