



EUROPE

Protecting health in Europe from climate change

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Protecting HEALTH in Europe from climate change
Protéger la SANTÉ en Europe face au changement climatique
Schutz der GESUNDHEIT vor den Folgen des Klimawandels in der Europäischen Region
Защита здоровья населения Европы от последствий изменения климата



Content

- Political context
- Collaboration between WHO and EC
- Next steps

Climate change now high on the WHO Agenda: the WHA Resolution 62/11

Urges member states:

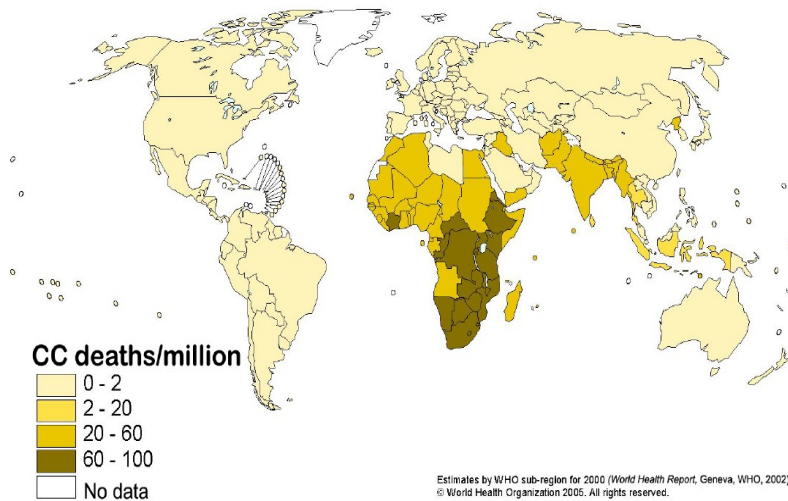
- to develop health measures and integrate them into plans for adaptation to climate change;
- to strengthen the capacity of health systems;
- to promote effective engagement of the health sector and its collaboration with all related sectors;
- to provide clear directions for planning and investment.

Requests the WHO Director General

- to promote research and pilot projects in this area;
- to engage actively in the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme
- to consult Member States on the preparation of a workplan for scaling up WHO's technical support.

There is growing evidence on health impacts from climate change

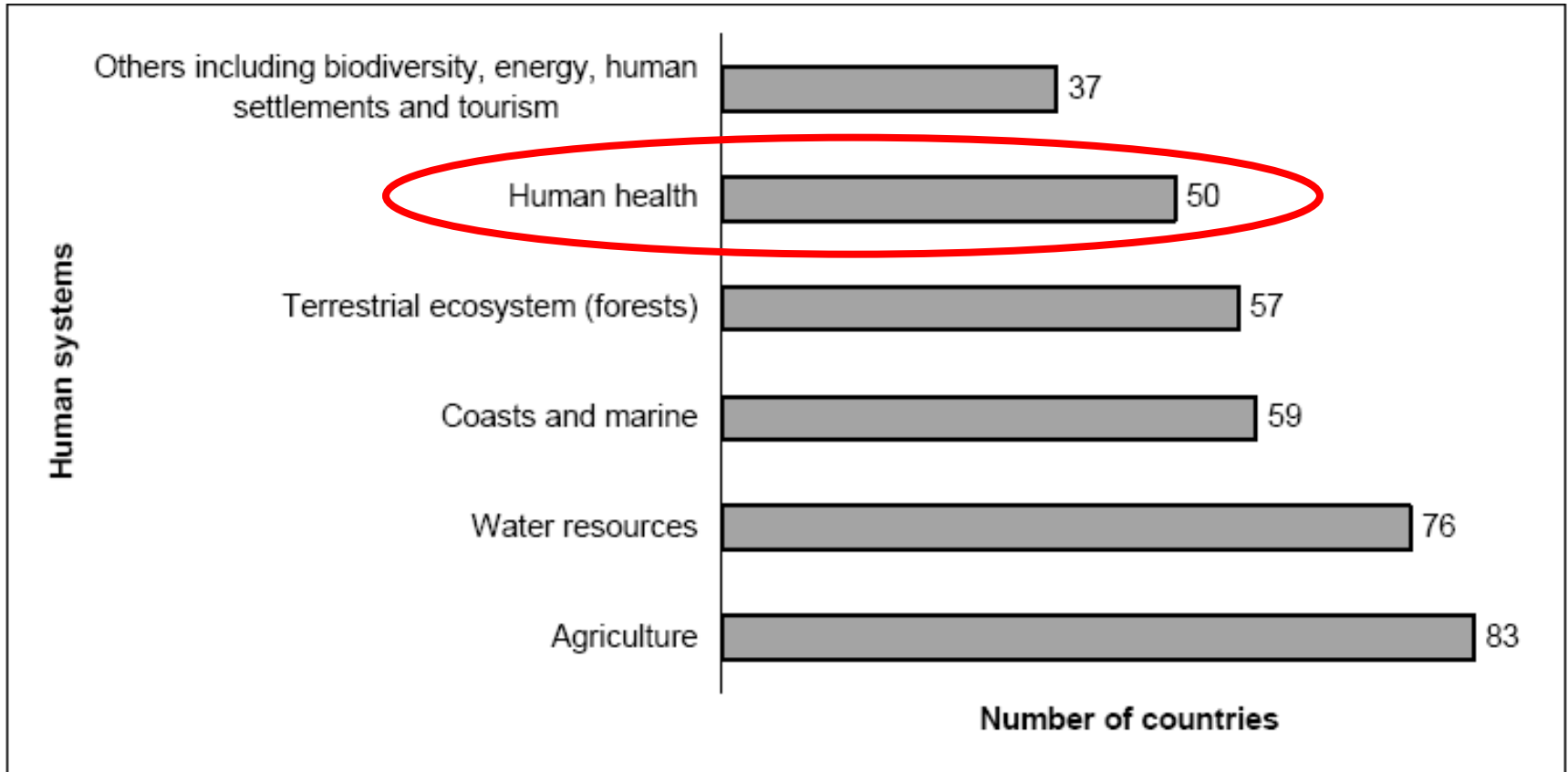
Deaths from climate change



- ❖ Health impacts of climate change presented 0.4% of the global burden of disease in 2000 (150,000 deaths) with only an increase of 0.4 degree of temperature
- ❖ Altered distribution of some vectors, risk of new emerging diseases
- ❖ Altered seasonal distribution of some pollen species
- ❖ Increased risk of heatwave deaths
- ❖ Changes in major health determinants
- ❖ Millions of people affected by mid this century

Many developing countries have identified health as a priority for action

(as reported in the National Communications to the UNFCCC of non-Annex I Parties)



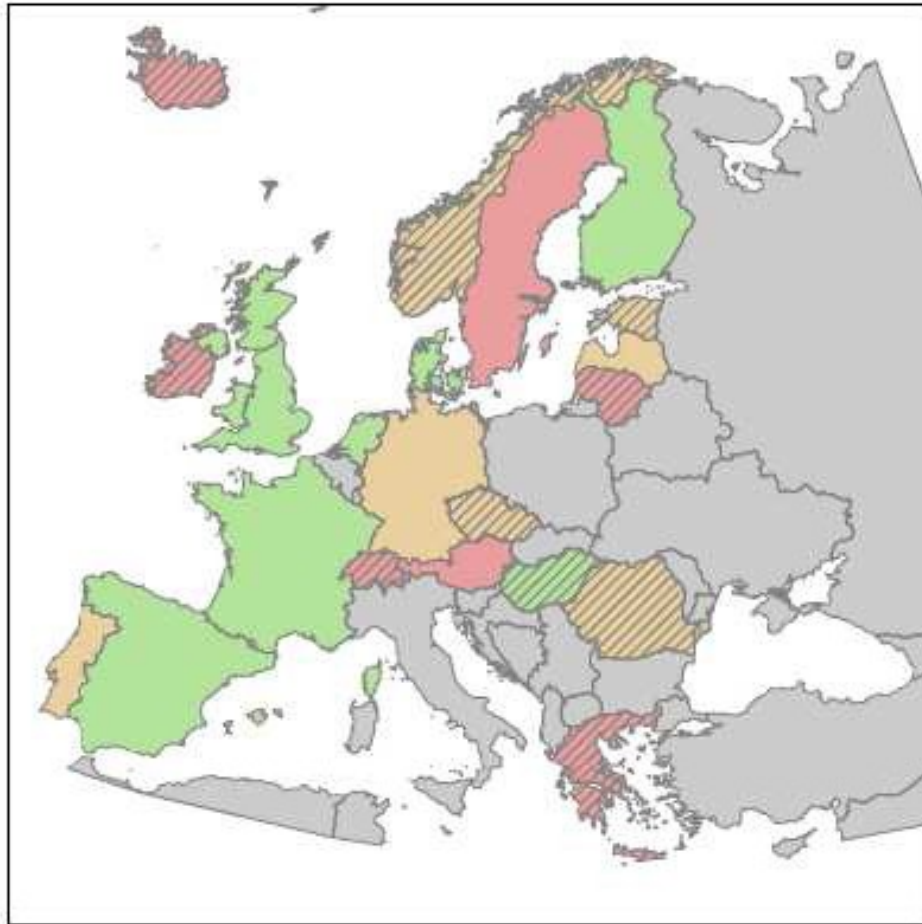
Courtesy of Miwa Kato (UNFCCC)



Health poorly addressed in the international climate change negotiations and funding of adaptation






- Is identified as a priority in 32 out of 38 (84%) UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs) from the least developed countries
- Is the focus of 31 of 430 (7%) projects submitted for NAPA funding
- Has received ~ \$2.5 million of \$1.3 billion (0.2%) of support granted under the UNFCCC
- Is represented by ~20 of the 10,000 participants (0.2%) in the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties

Health in National adaptation strategies (NAS) (courtesy: Swart et al, 2009)

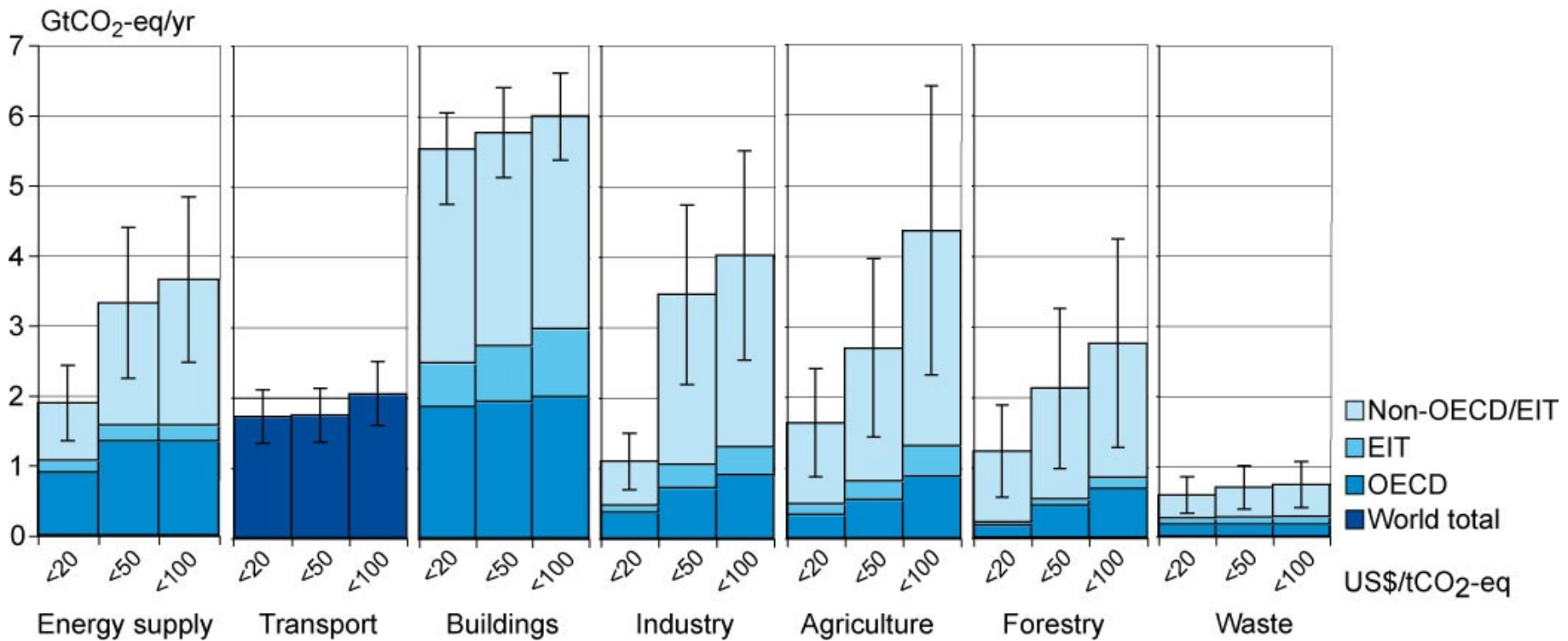


9 out of 11 countries addressed health in the development of their National adaptation strategies; one (France) identified health as the top priority

Legend









































































-  National Adaption Strategy adopted
-  National Adaption Strategy in development/ preparation
-  No National Adaption Strategy
-  Not included in study, following (EEA, 2008)
-  No information available

Health benefits of mitigation measures poorly addressed; health damages of mitigation not evaluated



Note: estimates do not include non-technical options, such as lifestyle changes.

TABLE 4.1. EXAMPLES OF TRANSPORT POLICIES AND THEIR SYNERGISTIC EFFECT IN BRINGING ABOUT VARIOUS TRANSPORT-RELATED HEALTH EFFECTS

Policy	Reducing crashes	Reducing air pollution	Reducing noise	Mitigating climate change	Promoting physical activity	Promoting community
Speed management						
Traffic calming and speed reduction in residential areas						
Reducing transport demand (such as by telecommunication)						
Road pricing						
Cleaner fuels and more efficient vehicles						
Promotion of safe cycling, walking and public transport						
Safer cars (including fronts protecting pedestrians)						
Implementing noise reduction barriers						
Investment in safe infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians						
Urban parking management						
Environmentally differentiated fees for motorized transport in urban areas						
Reducing the power of vehicles						

EC/WHO collaboration

- WHO generated evidence, on
 - Health impacts of climate change and other global environmental changes, through EC funded research: cCASHh, PHEWE, CIRCE, EDEN, etc
 - Public health measures on specific threats: e.g. EuroHEAT
 - Health impact assessment of policy options: e.g. CEHAPIS
 - Partnership with ECDC, EFSA and EEA by providing knowledge and evidence and providing the WHO expert network
- As requested in the White paper and accompanying staff paper, there is a need to:
 - Further strengthen collaboration
 - Collaborate in developing a European Framework for Action

Towards a joint agenda

- Further contributing the research Agenda, on
 - Health benefits of measures policies and strategies
 - Effective adaptation
- Identifying the best public health options for prevention and anticipation for inclusion in adaptation strategies
- Measuring trends over time
- Stimulating local initiatives
- Investing in EU neighbouring countries and accession countries
- Operational mechanisms:
 - Setting up a joint WHO/EC task force
 - Joint information platform

WHO added value: its focus on health systems

Health systems are in a unique position to

- put health concerns high in the climate change agenda;
- implement strategies to limit the health impacts;
- advocate for action in other sectors to benefit people's health;
- lead by example.

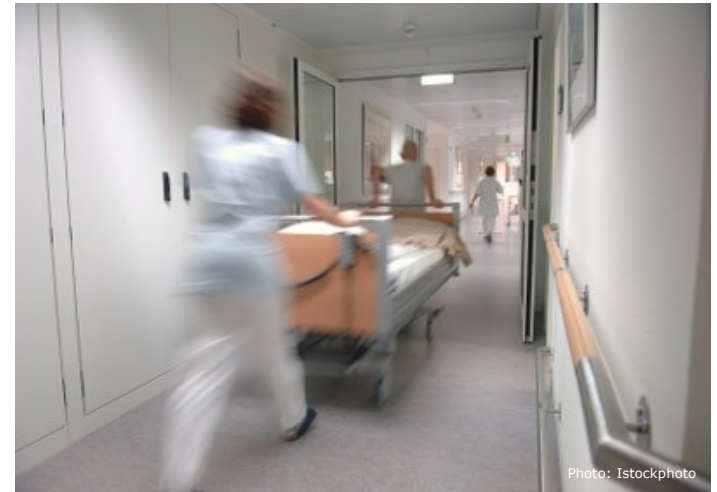


Photo: Istockphoto

The capacity of health systems to protect health from climate change varies greatly across Europe.

There are common actions that all health systems can take to strengthen preparedness and response

- identify problems; most vulnerable populations; training, communication and supplies needs;
- reinforce health services to adapt to climate change (i.e. ensuring clean water and sanitation, safe and adequate food, immunization, disease surveillance and response, vector control, and disaster preparedness);
- train health professionals on climate-related health issues (i.e. new transmission patterns of infectious diseases and symptoms and treatments of diseases linked to extreme weather events);



Common actions that all health systems can take (continued...)

- deliver accurate and timely information and communication to decision-makers, the general public, other stakeholders for proper action to protect health from climate change;
- strengthen health security e.g. facilitate collaboration between countries to respond to climate-related health crises when health security calls to enforce the International Health Regulations;
- advocate health in other sectors where reduction of emissions can benefit health (energy, transport, housing, land use, water management);
- set the example in tackling the root causes of climate change by taking actions to reduce health systems' "carbon footprint".



Key objectives of joint action

- avoiding additional deaths, disease and injuries from climate-change-related extreme weather events;
- anticipating, early identifying and responding to climate-change-related infectious disease outbreaks and changes in distribution;
- enforcing water safety;
- reducing respiratory diseases from climate change and associated policies; and
- enhancing food security and safety.

Challenges and opportunities in 2008-2009 for the WHO European Region

- To develop a Regional strategy for protecting health of the WHO European Region citizens;
- EC collaboration with WHO, through:
 - Strengthening Partnerships (EC, EEA, ECDC, EFSA, etc);
 - Successfully carrying out pilot projects (e.g. neighbourhood)
 - Providing evidence for action systematically
 - Sharing information and lessons learnt

**An opportunity: the next Ministerial Conference for
Health and the Environment.**



www.euro.who.int/globalchange

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