WHO special initiative on climate change and health in small island developing States

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Vision

By 2030 all health systems in small island developing states are resilient to climate variability and change, and countries around the world are reducing carbon emissions - both to protect the most vulnerable from climate risks, and to gain the health cobenefits of mitigation policies.
Scope

Empowerment
Raising the voice of SIDS health leaders for climate action.

Evidence
Identifying priority investments, and monitoring their success.

Implementation
Transformational shift to prevention, resilience and sustainability.

Resources
Increasing access to climate and health finance.
Individually, small island States are vulnerable. Small populations, geographic isolation, high exposure to climate risks, and limited human and financial resources.

Collectively, they are strong. Over 40 countries, strong regional institutions, and an organized voice on the world stage, e.g. through AOSIS and UNFCCC.

1. Empowerment: SIDS are stronger together
2. Evidence: Country-specific information and investment cases

WHO/UNFCCC is working with countries, COs and ROs to produce country profiles of climate and health for all SIDS. Can support countries to develop evidence-based business cases for investment in climate resilient health systems, and health-promoting mitigation.
3. Implementation: Increasing coverage of SIDS climate and health programmes
Implementation: Scale up and share best practice

“Smart” (Safe and Green) hospitals: Georgetown Hospital in Saint Vincent & the Grenadines

Dengue early warning system, based on precipitation
3. Implementation: Moving from projects to real health system resilience
4. Financing: Addressing the current neglect of support for climate and health

- Climate finance itself is insufficient.
- Health is poorly represented within climate project funding.
- SIDS are poorly represented in climate and health project funding (only 2 of 30 large scale projects implemented to date).
Next steps

**Empowerment:** Integration and promotion in key political mechanisms. Report to UNFCCC, AOSIS.

**Evidence:** Update technical support package, monitoring through WHO/UNFCCC country profiles.

**Implementation:** Ensure Secretariat support for national adaptation planning and project proposals.

**Financing:** Formalize relationships with climate finance mechanisms to support Ministries of Health.
Thank you