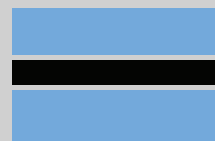


Botswana



KEY FACTS:

- ◆ Joined Commonwealth: 1966
- ◆ Capital: Gaborone
- ◆ Population: 1,882,000 (2007)
- ◆ GDP Growth: 4.8% p.a. 1990–2005
- ◆ Official Language: Setswana, English
- ◆ Time: GMT plus 2 hours
- ◆ Currency: pula (P)

Current vulnerabilities and threats

1. What are the health risks from current or future climate change impacts that are of most concern to your country?

- ◆ Disease outbreaks, both communicable and non communicable; so far there are water borne such as diarrhea and cholera. General Contamination of aquifers.

2. What population groups in your country are most vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change and what are the impacts likely to be?

Children, the elderly, people with compromised immunity. The impacts are wide ranging and include illness, death, poverty and disruption of life.

Strategy and policy

3. How much of a priority is addressing the impacts of climate change on health for your country?

High priority.

4. Please describe the strategies your country has developed (for example, health and climate change adaptation strategies) that address the health impacts of climate change.

A committee has been set up to discuss these issues. This is a national committee which does not necessarily focus on health impacts. The Ministry of Health is yet to set up a committee specific to health.

5. Has health been integrated into national climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies?

Yes.

6. What steps have been made towards implementation of these strategies?

- ◆ A country position paper has been drafted.
- ◆ The paper was discussed at the Climate Change Conference of Parties December 2008 in Poland.
- ◆ Ministry of health with the World Health Organization held a debate during World Health Day in April 2008.

7. What are the current policy gaps in addressing climate change and health?

- ◆ Priorities for health are HIV/AIDS related.
- ◆ Lack of policy and legislation.
- ◆ Lack of capacity, especially specialists.

8. How well equipped is your health system to cope with the impacts of climate change?

Not well equipped, there is a lot of room for improvement provided there is enabling legislation policy and strategies.

9. Have you made any changes to your health system in response to increased risks resulting from climate change and if so what changes have you made?

No significant changes.

10. What are the main constraints to addressing the health impacts of climate change in your country and how will these be addressed?

- ◆ Inadequate logistics to employ and retain officers.
- ◆ Lack of manpower/personnel to profile focal persons.

11. Have national resources been allocated to address climate change and health in your country? If so, approximately how much has been allocated and for what issues?

Not to our knowledge.

12. Is the Ministry of Health working together with other ministries (such as Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries and Finance) to address health and climate change issues?

Yes.

13. Has your country been involved in work to manage climate change and health at the international level?

Yes: Impact of climate change on malaria.

14. How would you describe the capacity of your country to participate at the global level on climate change and health?

The Country is ready and can be used; currently our immediate past

State President has been assigned by the UN to lead the work on climate change. The Ministry of Health however is not well equipped for the reasons mentioned in previous questions; i.e. lack of health strategy on climate change, logistics and manpower issues.

Any other comments or information you would like to provide

Climate change always results in phenomena that have not been anticipated. The Country needs to do a lot of work regarding the impact of climate change even on other sectors which are not health-related.