

Brunei Darussalam



KEY FACTS:

- ◆ Joined Commonwealth: 1984
- ◆ Capital: Bandar Seri Bagawan
- ◆ Population: 390,000 (2007)
- ◆ GDP growth: -0.8% p.a. 1990–2005
- ◆ Official language: Malay
- ◆ Time: GMT plus 8 hours
- ◆ Currency: Brunei Dollar

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?

- ◆ Vector-borne diseases; water-borne diseases; respiratory diseases due to air pollution and aeroallergens; food and water security; heat waves; and disruption of biodiversity.

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?

- ◆ The very young and the very old – respiratory diseases due to air pollution and aeroallergens; food and water security; and heat waves.

Strategy and policy

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

Mid-level 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.

- ◆ Developing the National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP) where climate change and disaster management are among the priority issues identified. NEHAP is a multi-agency national commitment that addresses issues related to environment and health using integrated strategies approach.
- ◆ Strengthening surveillance and monitoring systems on certain climate-sensitive outcomes, especially on vector-borne diseases.

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?

- ◆ Consultative workshop on the development of NEHAP arranged with the support of the WHO Western Pacific Region Office.
- ◆ Active case investigations and contact tracing of communicable diseases including vector-borne diseases.

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

- ◆ Health sector not seen as an obvious stakeholder in climate change issues.

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

- ◆ Able to cope with increase in climate-sensitive diseases.
- ◆ May face constraints during extreme weather events and any related disasters.

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?

- ◆ To ensure adequate supply of drugs and clinical supplies.
- ◆ Integrate response activities with other relevant agencies e.g. military, Fire and Rescue Department.

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

- ◆ Sufficient numbers of adequately trained and skilled personnel – addressed through training.
- ◆ The health sector not seen as an obvious stakeholder in climate change issues – addressed through engagement and consultative meetings with other agencies.

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 specifically.

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?

Provided assistance (disaster response and relief) to countries in the region.

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

Country participation can potentially be increased and expanded.

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