

# Sierra Leone



## KEY FACTS:

- ◆ Joined Commonwealth: 1961
- ◆ Capital: Freetown
- ◆ Population: 5,866,000 (2007)
- ◆ GDP growth: -1.4% p.a. 1990–2005
- ◆ Official language: English
- ◆ Time: GMT
- ◆ Currency: leone (Le)

## 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?*

Malnutrition and heat stroke.

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?*

- ◆ Populations settled along the coast.
- ◆ Populations in grassland and sandy areas.
- ◆ People living at high altitude (mountains, rocks, etc).

## 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.*

None at the moment other than raising awareness.

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

No.

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

None.

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

To my knowledge there is no such policy yet.

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

Poorly equipped at the moment.

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?*

None.

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

- ◆ Knowledge: People need to appreciate it as a problem and need to be educated on the subject adequately.
- ◆ Policy: There should be a relevant policy in place.
- ◆ Resources: Resource mobilisation is needed.

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 my knowledge.

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

No.

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

Not to my knowledge.

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

There is a great need to build the capacity of the country to participate in this global drive at all levels.