

Singapore



KEY FACTS:

- ◆ Joined Commonwealth: 1965
- ◆ Capital: Singapore
- ◆ Population: 4,436,000 (2007)
- ◆ GDP p c growth: 3.6% p.a. 1990–2005
- ◆ Official language: English, Chinese (Mandarin), Malay, Tamil
- ◆ Time: GMT plus 8hr
- ◆ Currency: Singapore dollar (S\$)

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?

Singapore has commissioned a study to assess the health impact of climate change, with particular reference to dengue, heat stroke and respiratory diseases.

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?

Young children and the elderly and those with co-morbid conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

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.

To better understand our vulnerabilities, to identify and assess adaptation measures and to mitigate greenhouse gas emission.

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

Yes.

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

- ◆ Formation of National Climate Change Committee, Interagency Technical Group (Vulnerability and Adaptation), etc.
- ◆ Research into health impacts on climate change.
- ◆ Raising public awareness..

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

N/A.

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

Well prepared as the health system had been tested during the SARS outbreak in 2003 and the unprecedented resurgence of dengue in 2005. It is equipped to deal with an imminent flu pandemic.

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?

This will be reviewed when local research data is available.

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

N/A.

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?

Ministry of Environment and Water Resources is the lead agency for climate change. It has resources allocated to address the whole spectrum of climate change, including research on health impacts.

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?

Yes.

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

Yes, in particular with WHO.

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

We have limited local experience on this issue.