

Uganda



KEY FACTS:

- ◆ Joined Commonwealth: 1962
- ◆ Capital: Kampala
- ◆ Population: 30,884,000 (2007)
- ◆ GDP p c growth: 3.2% p.a. 1990–2005
- ◆ Official language: English, Swahili
- ◆ Capital: Kampala
- ◆ Time: GMT plus 3hr
- ◆ Currency: Uganda shilling (USh)

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?

- ◆ Flooding leading to contamination of water sources and outbreak of sanitation related diseases e.g. Hepatitis E and cholera.
- ◆ Outbreak of vector-borne diseases especially malaria with a marked shift from lowlands to highland areas which were previously malaria-free.
- ◆ Damage to agriculture and crop failure resulting into food insecurity and malnutrition.
- ◆ Damage to infrastructure: roads, health facilities, homesteads which affect health service delivery.
- ◆ Floods and landslides cause injuries, loss of lives and displacement of communities.
- ◆ Drought leading to crop failure and death of livestock.

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 rural and urban poor.
- ◆ The sick, elderly, and children.
- ◆ Orphans.
- ◆ Pregnant women.
- ◆ Communities in highland and wetland ecosystems.
- ◆ Pastoral communities.

The health impacts are outbreaks of water-borne (e.g. cholera, Hepatitis E, dysentery) vector-borne diseases (e.g. malaria), injuries, loss of lives, loss of livestock, food insecurity and malnutrition.

Strategy and policy

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

Middle-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.

National strategies:

- ◆ Uganda ratified the UNFCCC on 9 September 1993 and

subsequently acceded to the Kyoto Protocol on 25 March 2002.

- ◆ A cabinet memorandum has been prepared in regard to the establishment of the institutional framework for the implementation of the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol.
- ◆ Uganda is in the process of establishing a National Regulatory Framework to enable it fully participate in the Clean Development Uganda has actively participated in the climate change process at international level by taking various positions including Vice Presidency of the COP Bureaux and is now a member of the CDM Executive Board which regulates carbon trading.
- ◆ Establishment of a multi-sectoral Climate Change Policy Committee and Climate Change Unit under the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Achievements and current activities:

- ◆ Uganda prepared and submitted Initial Communication to the Conference of Parties.
- ◆ In 2007, the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) as a quick channel for communicating immediate and urgent climate change and adaptation needs to the COP for funding.
- ◆ Developed an implementation strategy focusing on enhancing community resilience to the negative impacts of climate change.
- ◆ A project proposal for implementing Uganda's NAPA is under formulation with funding earmarked under the Global Environment Facility and Danish Embassy (DANIDA).
- ◆ Establishment of a multi-sectoral National Climate Change Policy Committee (NCCPC) to advise the minister responsible for environment and line ministries on climate change policy issues and CDM projects.
- ◆ Establishment of a secretariat in the Ministry of Water and Environment to provide secretariat support to the NCCPC and coordinate efforts to respond to the challenges of climate change in Uganda.

National strategies in health sector in Uganda:

- ◆ The health sector participated in the development of a multi-sectoral National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in 2007.
- ◆ Epidemic and Disaster Preparedness and Response.
- ◆ Policy and regulatory framework.
- ◆ Malaria control programme (IRS, ITNS, Home Management of

Fevers, Intermittent Preventive Treatment, prevention of malaria during pregnancy, malaria epidemic preparedness and response.

- ◆ Emergency hygiene and sanitation guidelines have been developed and disseminated.
- ◆ Control of diarrheal diseases.
- ◆ Disease surveillance and monitoring.
- ◆ Capacity building and training (Human and logistical).
- ◆ Village Health Team Strategy.

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?

- ◆ The health sector participated in the development of a multi-sectoral National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in 2007. Projects on community water and sanitation, vectors, pests and disease control have been identified within the NAPA and await funding.
- ◆ Epidemic and Disaster Preparedness and Response. The division in charge of this in the ministry has continued to use the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) Strategy adopted from World Health Organization in 2000.
- ◆ Policy and regulatory framework: The Ministry of Health shall have representatives on the multi-sectoral National Climate Change Policy Committee (NCCPC) to advise the minister responsible for environment and line ministries on climate change policy issues and CDM projects. This committee shall spearhead the formulation of climate change policy.
- ◆ Malaria control programme (IRS, ITNS, Home Management of Fevers, Intermittent Preventive Treatment, prevention of malaria during pregnancy, malaria epidemic preparedness and response.
- ◆ Emergency hygiene and sanitation guidelines have been developed and disseminated.
- ◆ Control of diarrhoeal diseases
- ◆ Disease surveillance and monitoring.
- ◆ Capacity building and training (Human and logistical).

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?

- ◆ A national policy on climate change is not yet in place.
- ◆ Climate change is not yet fully streamlined in the health sector.

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?

- ◆ Not well equipped especially in aspects of financial, technical and institutional capacity.

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

Not yet.

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?

- ◆ Limited financial and technical capacity to support implementation.
- ◆ Limited institutional capacity in the health sector.
- ◆ Inadequate information database on linkages between health and climate change.
- ◆ Limited information exchange and capacity building.
- ◆ Limited linkage between climate change and variability forecasting with health emergency preparedness and response.

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?

Not directly.

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

Yes.

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

Yes. Refer to strategies and achievements in Question 4.

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

Moderate capacity i.e. some officers in the health sector have been trained in climate change and have been involved in.