

PS 3.6

MULTI-SECTORAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES: ADAPTATION

| BACKGROUND

Adaptation action advances climate-resilient communities, ecosystems, and economies, with particular focus on vulnerable populations – the poor, women, and indigenous peoples. These groups are often the most vulnerable to climate change and are at greater health risk of its impacts. A single shock (e.g. a storm) or slow onset impact (such as sea level rise) can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and increase the likelihood of locking communities already at risk into cycles of poverty. Support to countries to respond to the ongoing impacts of climate change and to prepare for likely impacts, including uncertainty, in the future, is imperative.

Climate change puts the healthcare system at risk by threatening infrastructure through extreme weather and in meeting the growing demand for treating climate-induced illness. The integration of climate risks and health into national planning and budgeting processes and strategies through Health National Adaptation Plans (H-NAPs), Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments (V&A's), and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) is also a way of drawing attention to the issue. This enables countries to align their adaptation planning processes with their national development plans and other existing planning efforts while ensuring whole-of-society and multi-stakeholder engagement with key institutions, academia, civil society, NGOs, and the private sector.

| OBJECTIVES

The objective of this session is to share examples and ideas for multisectoral practices and policies to improve understanding of and action on climate change adaptation and health across regions and to discuss challenges and opportunities. We will focus on strategies and interventions to promote health and adapt healthcare systems for climate change conditions through policy reform, innovation and modeling, national adaptation plans, and early warning detection systems. Through support to countries on adaptation policy and programming, the intention is to leverage and catalyze financing – domestic public finance and private finance – to scale up adaptation action in the context of supporting health.



Speaker

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Following her Masters in Environmental Epidemiology and Policy from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, she started working in the area of Climate Change at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, working on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Human Health (cCASHh) project, focusing on both the observed impacts of extreme weather events in Europe as well as the impacts of climate change on salmonella and campylobacter infections.

She started working at the World Health Organization in 2003 and has held several positions in various duty stations, including Geneva, El Paso Texas, Washington DC, Haiti, Barbados, Brazzaville and Panama.

She has recently covered a range of topics including early warning systems for heatwaves, droughts, and climate sensitive diseases, the initiative on promoting an environmentally responsible and resilient health sector, sustainable procurement, air pollution, health care waste management, and supporting countries of the Region in the area of Climate Change and Health. She co-developed the technical notes on environmental public Health for COVID-19 response, and has a lot of experience in emergency preparedness and response.

She is currently based in Manila coordinating the regional team on Health and Environment issues.