

**Inputs provided by:** World Health Organization

**1. General description of mandates and objective(s) of your organization / associated network with institutional structure**

*(Please provide information on organizational mandates and objective(s) of the organization / associated network with organizational/institutional structure, as explicitly and/or implicitly relevant to addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including extreme weather events and slow onset events. Please feel free to expand the boxes as needed throughout the template. )*

WHO is the authority responsible for public health within the United Nations system. The WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) is one of WHO's six regional offices around the world. It serves the WHO European Region, which comprises 53 countries, covering a vast geographical region from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. WHO/Europe collaborates with a range of public health stakeholders in the Region and globally, to ensure that coordinated action is taken to develop and implement efficient health policies and to strengthen health systems. On the topic at hand (Loss and Damage resulting from Climate Change), WHO/Europe supports its Member States in developing public health approaches to cope with the new challenges posed by climate change.

**2. Relevant operational framework(s)**

*(Please provide information on the relevant operational framework(s) (e.g. programming principles, resource allocation strategies, coordination mechanism for operations at different levels etc.) within your organization/associated network as relevant to implementing work related to risk management for loss and management associated with climate change impacts)*

WHO/Europe's activities on climate change are currently guided by the "European Regional Framework For Action" which has the following strategic objectives:

- to ensure that all current and future mitigation and adaptation climate change measures, policies and strategies integrate health issues at all levels;
- to strengthen health, social and environmental systems and services to improve their capacity to prevent, prepare for, and cope with climate change;
- to raise awareness to encourage healthy mitigation and adaptation policies in all sectors;
- to increase the health and environment sectors' contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- to share best practices, research, data, information, technology and tools at all levels on climate change, environment and health.

**3. Focus areas of risk management for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts**

*(Please provide information on the areas of work in relation to the items included in decision 3/CP.18 as listed in the introductory note as well as any additional focus areas, that your organization/associated network has been mandated to address. These could include relevant institutional policy statements/operational guidance documents etc. Please provide web links where further details can be found.)*

WHO EURO activities on climate change loss and damage are guided by the World Health Assembly resolution WHA61.19 on climate change and health ([http://www.who.int/globalchange/health\\_policy/wha\\_eb\\_documentation/A63\\_27\\_en\\_climate\\_change.pdf](http://www.who.int/globalchange/health_policy/wha_eb_documentation/A63_27_en_climate_change.pdf)) and with the European Commitment to Act, endorsed at the Fifth European Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Parma, Italy, in 2010 (WHO, 2010 - [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/78608/E93618.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/78608/E93618.pdf)), which commits European Member States to protect health and well-being, natural resources and ecosystems and to promote health equity, health security and healthy environments in a changing climate. To address the immediate and future health consequences of climate change, WHO/Europe assists Member States in implementing the five strategic objectives of the European regional framework for action:

1. Integrate health issues in measures, policies and strategies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. This entails assessing the risks, developing national health adaptation strategies and promoting measures that benefit both human health and the climate system, such as clean energy and the promotion of cycling and walking. It also involves further research on and monitoring of the costs, benefits and effectiveness of interventions.
2. Strengthen health, social and environment systems and services to improve their capacity to prevent, prepare for and cope with climate change. This requires improved warning systems, monitoring and surveillance, prevention and treatment, as well as environmental services.
3. Raise awareness to encourage and facilitate healthy mitigation and adaptation policies in all sectors. This involves training, communication strategies and advocacy campaigns.
4. Increase the health and environment sectors' contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This includes action to promote efficient management of energy and resources.
5. At all levels, share best practices, research, data, information, technology and tools related to climate change, environment and health. This is done through participating in scientific and policy events, and making available information and publications online.

#### **4. Geographic coverage**

WHO's European region covers 53 countries. The complete list can be consulted at <http://www.euro.who.int/en/where-we-work>

#### **5. Key stakeholders**

Ministries of health, Ministries of environment, European Commission (EEA, ECDC), network of WHO collaborating centres, Academia, UNFCCC Secretariat, other UN Agencies; local, state, and regional coalitions interested in the health and climate change issue (NGOs), etc.

#### **6. Implementation modality / delivery mechanisms**

Activities of the WHO European Office build on decadal experience of strengthening countries' health systems to protect health from climate change. Based on the strategic approach and targeting as well as WHO implementation procedures and organisational set up the CGS programme of the WHO European Office also:

- co-ordinates review of the scientific evidence on the links between climate and health ensuring complementarity and coordination with other WHO HQ policies;
- develop guideline and recommendation on specific topics, i.e. heat waves, floods, cold waves...
- ensure that policy objectives become concrete actions on-the-ground through BCA priorities implementation or Projects implementation with consideration of defined set of processes and procedures (heat-health action plans; disaster preparedness; programmes to combat infectious disease, improve water and sanitation services and respond to natural disasters; information to the public on how to avoid risks; capacity building on climate change and health)

Please provide information related to the technical, financial and institutional support mechanism

The CGS programme assist Member States in institutional capacity building and human capacity development. Furthermore, the programme can assist in:

- strengthening health systems' capacity to monitor and minimize the public health impacts of climate change;
- strengthening health systems' management of its workforce;
- establishing an early warning systems, for adequate preventive measures, preparedness, timely response and effective management of natural disasters;
- estimating health and adaptation cost due to climate change.

Please provide information related to reporting, if any

## 7. Key activities / outputs to date

- Participation in EU-funded research projects (ongoing or recently completed): CEHAPIS (Climate, Environment and Health Action Plan and Information System - <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/environment-and-health/Climate-change/policy/overview-of-the-results-of-climate,-environment-and-health-action-plan-and-information-system-cehapis2>), CIRCE (Climate change and impacts research: the Mediterranean environment - <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/environment-and-health/Climate-change/activities/climate-change-and-impacts-research-the-mediterranean-environment-the-circe-project>), RAMSES (Reconciling Adaptation, Mitigation and Sustainable Development for Cities - <http://www.ramses-cities.eu>), IMPACT2C (Quantifying projected impacts under 2°C warming), EUPORIAS (European Provision Of Regional Impacts Assessments on Seasonal and decadal timescales - <http://www.euporias.eu/>)
- Climate Change, health and adaptation vulnerability assessments within the WHO/BMU "7-country project" (Russian federation, for Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Albania - <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/environment-and-health/Climate-change/country-work/protecting-health-from-climate-change-a-seven-country-initiative-in-the-eastern-part-of-the-who-european-region>)
- Economic toolkit for the assessment of the health costs of climate change and of health-relevant

adaptation strategies (<http://www.euro.who.int/climate-change-economic-tool>)

- WHO Europe guidance on public health management of heat waves (<http://www.euro.who.int/heat-health-action-plans-guidance>) and public health advice for different audiences (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/environment-and-health/Climate-change/publications/2011/public-health-advice-on-preventing-health-effects-of-heat.-new-and-updated-information-for-different-audiences> )
- WHO Europe report on public health management of flooding (<http://www.euro.who.int/floods-in-the-who-european-region>)
- WHO/UNECE Guidance on water and sanitation during extreme weather events (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/environment-and-health/Climate-change/publications/2011/guidance-on-water-supply-and-sanitation-in-extreme-weather-events>)

#### **8. Any additional information and contact details**

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