## Strengthening health and climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean region, with a specific focus on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

Leon Charles, Grenada

November 12, 20

## **Guiding Questions**

What does it mean to include health in a NAP? How can countries be further encouraged to look at it more closely/in more detail given its importance? What are the countries' needs?

How to increase the depth of the action each country wants to take and the types of approaches, and how it integrates into other systems?

# Outline

Overview of Grenada's NAP

Health in the NAP

Health and Climate Change Programming

HNAP

Depth of Action and Integration with Other Sectors

#### The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) - 2016 - 2021

• The NAP's **vision** is:

A resilient nation that continuously adapts to climate change by reducing their vulnerability through comprehensive adaptation strategies.

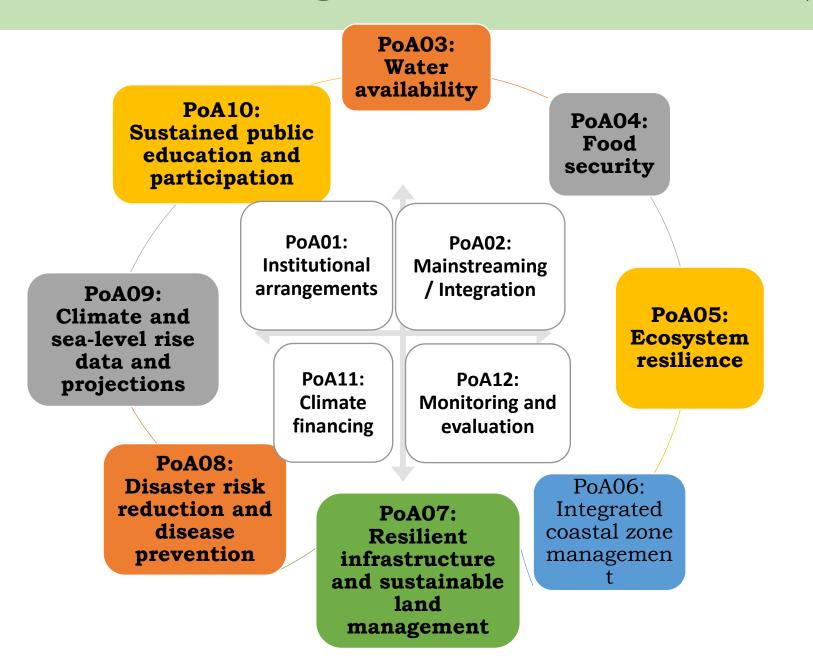
• It consists of **12 programmes of action** with corresponding **14 goals** and **20 indicators**.

## Health in NAP

#### Grenada's NAP

- Currently being updated
- Health was in one POA #8
- Health segment focused on:
  - Vector Borne Diseases
  - Surveillance
  - Capacity Building related to vector borne diseases

#### The 12 NAPS Programmes of Action (PoA)



Health and Climate Change Programming

- Health Strategic Plan 2016 2025
- Included CC as a key issue and provided for development of HNAP
- Initiated action on climate change
  - PAHO SMART Hospitals Initiative
  - OECS Regional Health Project
  - G-CREWS project

# HNAP Technical Content

- Formal HNAP was initiated in 2021 as part of a regional CARIFORUM project and is currently ongoing
  - Done situational and analysis of current and potential CC impacts – analysis limited due to unavailability of data
  - Focus is on the six Building Blocks of Effective Health system
    - 1. Health service delivery
    - 2. Health workforce
    - 3. Health information systems
    - 4. Access to essential medicines
    - 5. Health systems financing
    - 6. Leadership and governance

#### Results of Regression Analysis between Climate and Health in Grenada

Disease	Relationship
Dengue Fever	<ul> <li>A weak but significant relationship between temperature and dengue fever with the likelihood of cases increasing with average monthly temperature at ≥29<sup>0</sup>C compared to 26<sup>0</sup>C.</li> <li>A weak but significant relationship between rainfall and dengue fever with the likelihood of cases increasing with average monthly rainfall at 271 – 300 mm compared to ≤90 mm.</li> </ul>
Foodborne Illness	<ul> <li>A moderate, but significant relationship between temperature and foodborne illness with the likelihood of cases increasing with average monthly temperature at 26<sup>0</sup>C compared to 29<sup>0</sup>C.</li> </ul>
Influenza	<ul> <li>A weak but significant relationship between rainfall and influenza cases with the likelihood of cases increasing with monthly average rainfall 271 – 300 mm compared to ≤210 mm.</li> </ul>

### **Priority Climate Sensitive Health Risks**

Direct Effects		
Health impacts of weather-related disasters and emergencies e.g. physical injuries, trauma, pollution, loss of		
livelihoods		
Heat-related illness – Dehydration, heat cramps, heat stroke, accelerated death from respiratory diseases,		
cardiovascular diseases and other chronic diseases		
Indirect Effects		
Waterborne diseases – Contaminated water from poor storage during reduced precipitation and from floods	Yes	
during increased precipitation can lead to Leptospirosis, diarrhea illness, and intestinal helminth infections,		
Acute Gastrointestinal illnesses		
Water, food security and safety – impact of sea level rise, storm damage, droughts on food supply		
Vector-borne diseases e.g. mosquito borne diseases including Zika, Chikungunya, dengue, and yellow fever		
from poor storage during dry season and in the rainy season		
Zoonoses e.g. increase in mongoose population in drier regions, rats		
Respiratory illnesses and allergies – dry weather favors the onset of lower respiratory diseases, influenza,		
pneumonia, asthma, which result from air pollution		
Sanitation – poor sanitation, arising from adverse hydro-metereological events, facilitates the spread and	Yes	
multiplication of infectious organisms		
Non-communicable diseases – heat, trauma from adverse events, and impacts on food systems can result in	Yes	
increased burden of non-communicable diseases.		
Diffuse Effects		
Mental/psychosocial health resulting from personal property damage, loss of lives, infrastructure damage, loss		
of livelihood and assets and high levels of stress and anxiety over prolonged periods		

# **HNAP Processes**

#### **Inclusive Approaches**

- Includes Non-Health determinants water, food security, disaster management
- Process managed by a multisectoral HNAP Committee
- Inclusive approach with stakeholder consultations
- Currently reviewing and prioritizing adaptation options that have been identified through consultative process

#### Being developed alongside NAP Update process

- Involved NAP Review Consultant in consultation processes
- Will use templates and formats from the NAP to facilitate integration into the NAP

## Depth of Action and Integration?

- **Ownership and leadership** by senior management of the sector
- **Inclusive approach** opens up wider perspectives
  - Disaster Management
  - Vulnerable communities
  - Gender perspectives, etc.
- Embed into Health sector Governance processes re **stakeholder engagement**

## Depth of Action and Integration?

- **Consolidate** through:
  - Integration into national NAP processes including NAP Implementation framework – so not seen as independent of national development processes
  - Integration into National Sustainable Development Plan 2035
  - Integration into Ministry Strategic Plan .... So have to consider as part of annual Budgety cycle

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### First progress report of the National Adaptation Plan for Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique

Ministry of Climate Resilience, The Environment & Renewable Energy

August 2022

## **NAP Successes**

- Enhanced institutional framework for climate change adaptation.
- Increased access to climate finance and enhanced collaboration with the NGO community.
- Increased awareness about climate change adaptation.
- Intentional inclusion of adaptation measures relevant to Carriacou and Petite Martinique.
- Greater focus and guidance for adaptation programming.

# **NAP Challenges**

- Unsatisfactory knowledge of climate change, the NAP, and agencies' responsibilities.
- Low utilization of the NAP to inform strategic planning.
- Inadequate governance arrangements for the implementation of the NAP.
- A deficient M&E system.
- Inadequate technical capacity and human resources.
- Budgetary constraints.
- Inadequate political will.
- The adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- An overly ambitious plan.
- Limited integration of gender considerations in the NAP.

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