UN Climate Change Conference Structured Expert Dialogue: Second Periodic Review

Human health and well-being





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Haines & Ebi 2019

Detection and attribution

- Formal methods widely used in climate change to determine:
 - Whether a system is changing beyond a specified baseline that characterizes behavior in the absence of climate change; and
 - The extent to which climate change has contributed substantially to the observed change in the system
- Highly policy relevant

Heat-related mortality rate attributable to humaninduced climate change, 1991-2018

Overall, 37% of warm season heatrelated deaths can be attributed to anthropogenic climate change



Heat-related mortality rate attributed to human-induced climate change (per 100,000) 0.9 1.4 2.0 3.0

Short history

- In 1992, Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change stated its ultimate goal is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.
 - Questions about how to quantify dangerous
- In 2001, the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC 3rd assessment report (TAR) introduced the Reasons for Concern framework
 - Associated figure generally referred to as the "burning embers"
- This framework was used in subsequent assessment reports
 - Framework is familiar to IPCC focal points
 - Framework and figure facilitate communication of the magnitude of climate-related risks and how they could change over time

Reasons for Concern : example unique and threatened systems

RFC1 Unique and threatened systems encompass ecological and human systems that (i) have restricted geographic ranges constrained by climate related conditions and (ii) have high endemism or other distinctive properties. They include coral reefs, the Arctic and its indigenous people, mountain glaciers, and biodiversity hotspots







Purple indicates very high risks of severe impacts/risks and the presence of significant irreversibility or the persistence of climate-related hazards. combined with limited ability to adapt due to the nature of the hazard or impacts/risks. **Red** indicates severe and widespread impacts/risks. **Yellow** indicates that impacts/risks are detectable and attributable to climate change with at least medium confidence. White indicates that no impacts are detectable and attributable to climate

change.

Selected characteristics of health systems under the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways

- Characteristics of health systems under SSPs 1, 2, and 3
 - SSP 1: Proactive; adaptively managed; frequent partnerships; interdisciplinary
 - SSP 2: Incomplete planning; new information incorporated as convenient; occasional partnerships
 - SSP 3: Reactive; failure to adapt; siloed information channels & national governance; limited partnerships

• Building blocks of health systems

- Leadership & governance
- Health information systems
- Climate resilient & sustainable technologies & infrastructure
- Service delivery



Ebi et al. 2021

Response necessary to protect health from escalating risks



WHO (2021). Quality Criteria for Health National Adaptation Plans

Strengthen health system resilience to climate change



Planning is advanced, but funding is missing – and not supported from multilateral climate funds

Countries with health adaptation strategies/plans 50.0% 50.0% With health strategy/plan Without health strategy/plan 0.5% 99.5%

Funding available to support implementation

Health projects
Non-health projects

Support to health from multilateral climate funds

WHO Climate and Health Survey Report: (2019)

Meeting the Paris targets brings very large health "cobenefits"

Markandya et al, Lancet Public Health, 2018

The value of the health cobenefits of climate change mitigation, from air quality alone, are approximately twice as large as the costs

Thank you