

Climate Change and Health

Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. It is experiencing an increased frequency and intensity of cyclones, floods, landslides, heatwaves, droughts and sea-level rise, affecting a large proportion of the population. The country is endemic to many climate-sensitive water and vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, chikungunya, diarrhoea etc. Health-care facilities and health services are also vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events experiencing damage to the health infrastructure, impedes access to facilities and disrupt energy, water and other services.

Under the guidance of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) is closely working with World Health Organization (WHO) to increase adaptive capacity of national health system to respond and to manage climate sensitive health risks.

Major activities are listed below that are being implemented under the technical support of WHO:

- 1. Health National Adaptation Plan (H-NAP)**
- 2. Health Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment**
- 3. Climate Sensitive Disease (CSD) Surveillance and Early Warning and Alert Response System (EWARS)**
- 4. Climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health facilities (Piloted)**
- 5. Climate resilient water safety plan for urban piped water supply system developed (with the collaboration of Department of Public Health and Engineering)**
- 6. National WASH standards for health care facilities (Under guidance of DGHS)**
- 7. Technical and capacity building materials**
 - Guideline on "Climate Sensitive Disease Early Warning and Alert Response System (EWARS)"
 - Training manual on "Climate Change and Health" for health professionals
 - Guideline on "Climate Informed Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan" for healthcare facility managers
- 8. Assessment of Carbon Foot Print in Selected Health Care Facilities (on going)**