

The Development of the Climate Change, Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP) for Guyana

Background

Global environmental changes such as climate change have a significant impact on people's health and well-being in the Caribbean region - disrupting physical, biological, and ecological systems. These disruptions can exacerbate existing health inequalities and/or create new ones.

Evidence and subsequent recognition of the climate and weather-related impacts on human health in the Caribbean has increased. More severe hurricanes rage across the sub-region, leaving devastation of catastrophic proportions. Small Island Developing States are extremely vulnerable to impacts from climate change with more frequent, strong and devastating hurricanes affecting many countries with long lasting impacts. These conditions negatively affect food security, water security, and have a direct negative impact on people's health and wellbeing in the form of heat strokes, respiratory illnesses (chronic and acute), cardiovascular diseases, Malaria, Zika, Dengue, stress and other mental health challenges and other vector borne and infectious diseases.

In July of 2020, a Grant Contract for External Actions of the European Union (EU) was signed between the Caribbean Region (CARIFORUM) and The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for the implementation of the Action entitled '**Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems in the Caribbean**', with an implementation period of 60 months.

The main partners include PAHO/WHO, its collaborating centres and relevant regional agencies such as Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), University of Western Caribbean (UWI) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Additional partners are UNEP, FAO, and UNCC.

Sixteen participating Caribbean countries will be the principal target groups for the project, as the project has been formulated with the specific goal of building capacity and networks within the CARIFORUM community. The countries: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

The overall objectives of the Action under this project are to:

1. **Strengthen the resilience of public health systems and services which, ultimately, aims at reducing the mortality and morbidity from the expected health consequences of climate change in the Caribbean countries.**
2. **Work in a collaborative manner across organizations and nations to develop innovative products, methods and actions to prevent negative health consequences.**
3. **Prepare public health plan, programs and policies to better adapt to the current unprecedented changes in the CARIFORUM community.**

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Within this Project one of the main outputs is that the CARIFORUM countries will develop comprehensive health chapters in the National Adaptation Plan for climate change (HNAP) or an equivalent document. This document is necessary for countries to strengthen the health system's ability to adapt to climate change, bolster prevention and preparedness and prioritize adaptation projects among the most vulnerable for implementation. There is the need for Guyana to develop its HNAP so that the health and non-health sectors are better positioned to address the impacts on climate change and health.

As a result, the services of a climate change and health specialist or team of specialists are/is required for the development of the HNAP.

Scope of Services

The selected contractor is expected to complete the following Scope of Services:

1. Preliminary groundwork in the HNAP development through a SWOT analysis to determine available information/gaps, approaches to addressing gaps/weaknesses and a report of findings and next steps; Develop HNAP communication plan to share findings and information with the public and other sectors.
2. Complete the following steps (2-8) to complete the health Vulnerability and Adaptation assessment (V&A) beginning with framing and scoping the health V&A and describing the risks of climate sensitive outcome including the most vulnerable groups;
3. Conduct a sensitivity analysis on relationships of health outcomes and core weather variables and weather/climate patterns, including the capacity of health and other sectors to manage the risks of climate sensitive outcomes;
4. Conduct health impact assessment to understand the future impacts on health using quantitative or qualitative approaches;
5. Identify all possible adaptation policies and programmes and prioritize adaptation action that address current and projected risks in the near term; integrate into the National Adaptation Strategy the particular needs of vulnerable populations and gender and equity considerations;
6. Identify the possible action to reduce the potential health risks of adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation policies and programmes implemented in other sectors;
7. Apply the communication plan to share findings and information with the public and other sectors.
8. Develop the implementation strategies in order to carry out the HNAP in Guyana that includes development of an implementation strategy for operationalizing the HNAP and integrating climate change adaptation into health-related planning processes such as the Nationally Designated Contributions;

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9. Promote coordination and synergy with the NAP process, particularly with sectors that can affect health
10. Estimation of required resources for HNAP implementation; develop resource mobilization strategy;
11. Develop plan to monitor and review the HNAP to assess progress, effectiveness, and gaps
12. Combine and consolidate the HNAP draft document;

Technical expertise

- Knowledge about health systems' operations;
- Knowledge about climate change and its impacts on health;
- Experience in data collection and analysis;
- Experience in impact assessment and sensitivity analyses;
- Experience liaising with Ministries and national authorities;
- Strong professional and academic writing skills;
- Strong research, problem-solving and organizational skills.

Education/Experience

An advanced degree on the environment or public health or a related field.

At least 3-5 years of experience on topics/areas related to climate change and health are desired.

Contractor's responsibilities

- The incumbent will ideally be based in Guyana, working remotely under the direct supervision of the Advisor, Climate and Environmental Determinants of Health. However, external candidates with a strong knowledge of working systems in Guyana will be considered.
- Duration of consultancy is 10 months (June 2024 – March 2025)

PAHO's responsibilities

Review and approve deliverables and provide feedback to the Contractor in a timely manner.

Completion Criteria

Deliverable 1

Item 1: Report of findings and next steps from assessment of capacity strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the HNAP;

Item 2: V&A framing and scoping report;

Item 3: V&A sensitivity analysis report;

Item 4: V&A health impact assessment report;

Deliverable 2

Item 5: Report with adaptation action priorities that address current and projected risks in the near term and include in the national strategy the particular needs of vulnerable populations and gender and equity considerations;

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Item 6: Report on the actions that can be taken to reduce the potential health risks of adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation policies and programmes implemented in other sectors;

Item 7: Report on implementation of the communication plan in country to share findings and communicate process to public and other sectors;

Item 8: Implementation strategy for the HNAP including plan to operationalize the HNAP and integrate climate change adaptation into health-related planning processes such as the Nationally Designated Contributions;

Deliverable 3

Item 9: Report on strategy and specific steps taken to promote coordination and synergy with the NAP process (or national equivalent), particularly with sectors that can affect health

Item 10: HNAP implementation estimation and resource mobilization strategy

Item 11: Plan to monitor and review the HNAP to assess progress, effectiveness, and gaps;

Item 12: Completed comprehensive HNAP document for submission to the national authority

Timeframe

This Contract is expected to be completed within a 10-month period, inclusive of the submission of the deliverables defined within.

Payment Schedule

Payments will be made on satisfactory submission, review and approval of deliverables. One payment per deliverable.

Other Criteria

- Tasks are to be performed accurately and within timeframes specified or nearest date.
- Standards, written policies, and procedures are to be well documented and filed for future reference.
- Good human relations skill is to be demonstrated in dealing with all internal and external customers/stakeholders.
- Flexibility is to be demonstrated in meeting the goals and objectives.
- Confidentiality and integrity are to be maintained at all times.

Special terms and conditions

All rights, including title, copyright, and patent rights of any material(s) produced under the terms of this contract shall be vested in PAHO/WHO, which shall be entitled to make any changes or eliminate any part of the material(s) it deems advisable.

Requirements for submission of Proposal for the Contract

- *Submit a Technical Proposal outlining execution of the deliverables and including a timeline/Gantt Chart outlining completion of tasks*
- *Submit a Financial Proposal detailing cost for the deliverables mentioned in your Technical Proposal*



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- *Submit an updated CV showing relevance to the project*
 - *Submit a completed Declaration of No-Conflict*
 - *Include any special requirements/instructions for payment.*