

# WORKSHOP REPORT

**CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL STUDIES  
MONDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2019, NIHSS, N.E. POINT**

## BACKGROUND

As a small island developing state, Seychelles is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise, salt water intrusion, heavy rains, flooding, coral bleaching and droughts. It is critical that the population of Seychelles becomes more aware and pro-active in terms of how they can better prepare for present and future impacts of climate change. The Seychelles National Health Strategic Plan 2016-20 states "it is now imperative for Seychelles to ensure that health service delivery and health systems integrate climate change especially as temperatures on both land and sea continue to rise and extreme weather events become more common". This workshop at NIHSS was identified as a result of a workshop for health professionals held at Victoria Hospital on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019, undertaken by the European Union funded Seychelles Global Climate Change Alliance project that is providing support to Seychelles in its efforts to address climate change. If justified the Seychelles GCCA+ project can fund a short-term consultant to provide further specialised inputs.

## WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To increase NIHSS staff understanding of climate change and its effects on Seychelles' main populated islands;
- 2) To explore how the health sector will be impacted by climate change in the short and long terms; and
- 3) To examine the steps required to climate proof the NIHSS curriculum in order to strengthen the responses to the negative impacts of climate change on health.

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

Time	Item	Presenter
8.30	Opening Remarks	Ebrahim Ali (NIHSS)
8.45	Introductions and workshop objectives	Iris Carolus (GCCA+)
9.00	Brief Introduction to Climate Change	Peter Brinn (GCCA+)
9.15	Climate Change and Health	Dr. Pugazhendhi (MOH)
9.30	Pest, Diseases and Climate Change	Lisa Florentine (NBA)
9.45	Vector Control in Seychelles	Merna Amade (PHA)
10.00	Break	
10.30	Overview of NIHSS programmes	Ebrahim Ali (NIHSS)
10.45	Group work on climate proofing the NIHSS curriculum Followed by Plenary and discussion	GCCA+ Facilitation
11:45	Conclusion of workshop, evaluations	GCCA+
12.00	CLOSE	

## PARTICIPANTS

The workshop was attended by 16 people from NIHSS representing various sections responsible for delivering health related training. Including facilitators and presenters there were 21 of which 16 were female and 5 were male. Registration details are given in Annex A. Iris Carolus and Peter Brinn from the GCCA+ facilitated the workshop, with presentations also by Peter Brinn (GCCA+); Dr Sanjeev Pugazhendhi (Ministry of Health) ; Ms Merna Amade (Public Health Authority) and Ms Lisa Florentine (National Biosecurity Agency).

## **WORKSHOP EXPENSES**

1. The venue was provided by NIHSS.
2. Tea and coffee were provided by NIHSS, snacks by GCCA+.
3. GCCA+ covered the costs of workshop planning and facilitation.
4. S4S provided backstopping support.

## **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION**

This workshop was identified as a possible action at the larger Ministry of Health workshop held on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 at Victoria Hospital. The programme was organised in collaboration with Mr Ebrahim Ali (Programme Coordinator In-service training and Continuing Professional Development) at the request of the Director of NIHSS. Invitations were extended to all NIHSS teaching staff. Overall there was a good response, positive reactions and interesting questions from participants.

Following a few words of welcome, Iris Carolus invited participants to introduce themselves. She then briefly explained the GCCA+ project and its support to climate change actions in Seychelles. This was followed by outlining the workshop objectives and the agenda.

Peter's presentation on the science of climate change started with two groups who had to work together to match up climate change terminology with definitions. The results demonstrated that the participants already did have a good understanding of climate change. This activity was reinforced by a presentation on climate change science and an overview of climate change impacts currently facing Seychelles as well as some graphs from the Seychelles Meteorological Authority on past trends and future projections.

Dr Sanjeev Pugazhendhi gave a comprehensive presentation on climate change and health. He described direct and indirect exposure to climate change and effects on human health, this was followed by sections on protecting health in a changing climate and building climate resilient health systems. The presentation concluded with a review of challenges and opportunities.

Ms Lisa Florentine described the influence of climate change on pests and diseases in Seychelles, particularly those implicated in human health. The influence of changes in temperature, Carbon dioxide, humidity and rainfall were described together with the use of pesticides used in control measures.

Ms Merna Amade gave a presentation concentrating on vectors covering the following topics:

- What is vector
- Types of vector
- Common vector borne diseases
- How does climate change affect vector borne diseases
- Distribution of adult mosquitoes
- Laws
- Integrated vector management

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

After a short overview of proposals for climate change integration in the Environmental Health programme the following questions were discussed by the group as a whole.

1. Would it be useful to have a GCCA+ give support for a short-term consultant to review NIHSS curricula to make recommendations on integrating climate change?
2. If 'yes' what are the timelines, other practical considerations for preparing ToRs?
3. If 'no' do you have any other climate change suggestions that a short-term consultant could assist NIHSS with?

## WORKSHOP EVALUATION

### Workshop evaluation responses – summary from 13 participants.

At the end of the workshop participants were invited to fill in an evaluation form. Out of 16 participants 13 submitted a completed form. The findings are summarised in the table below.

1. Please tell us at least one new thing you learnt ?	2. What did you enjoy about the workshop?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link between CC and changes in breeding patterns of insects and pests.</li> <li>• Complexity of CC</li> <li>• Impact on everyday living/all sectors including health and health status of population x 6</li> <li>• Different GHGs and respective percentages</li> <li>• Impact of CC on Seychelles e.g. sea warming</li> <li>• Importance of focussing on CC as part of NIHSS programme e.g. nursing; social work</li> <li>• Different MOH/PHA strategies currently being undertaken</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree of importance attached to CC/it's impact on health x 2</li> <li>• Interlinkages between presentations x 2</li> <li>• All discussions</li> <li>• Interactive/informative workshop x 5</li> <li>• Group activity at start of session x 2</li> <li>• Presentation on CC and vectors</li> <li>• Different perspectives of CC presented</li> </ul>
3. What didn't you like?	4. How can you apply what you learnt in your work?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session was useful and beneficial/Nothing/No reply x 8</li> <li>• Forceful inculcation of CC principles into the curriculum as a separate course</li> <li>• Presentation on statistics outdated</li> <li>• Poor presentation skills of some presenters</li> <li>• Time frame too short to allow for more discussions</li> <li>• Too many presentations at one go</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporating CC in teaching/specific courses x 7</li> <li>• Relating CC to health</li> <li>• Sensitising colleagues, students and family members on topics covered x 5</li> <li>• Using prevention strategies given the impact of CC on disease patterns</li> <li>• Proposal to recruit a consultant to climate proof the NIHSS curriculum and the NIHSS extension project is worth considering</li> </ul>

Numbers indicate how many participants wrote a similar response.

## CONCLUSION

As seen from the evaluations, the workshop was viewed as useful and enjoyable by the majority of the participants. However, discussions revealed there was some minority resistance to adding additional material to the existing courses, and/or offering climate change as a separate module. It was explained during discussions the purpose of the workshop was to introduce the climate concepts and make the offer for GCCA+ to support the integration into the NIHSS syllabus. It is fully appreciated that the integration of climate change into the NIHSS programme can only be achieved with the interest and support of the staff. It cannot be imposed. The offer of further GCCA+ support to NIHSS will be discussed internally over the next month. If there is agreement for GCCA+ to hire a consultant the next step would be to draft Terms of Reference.

Regarding an alternative proposal, NIHSS is currently expanding its premises and could possibly benefit from some advice on how best to climate proof this infrastructure development.

It was agreed that the GCCA+ Team Leader will contact NIHSS in a month ( around July 15<sup>th</sup>) to further discuss the best way forward.

**ANNEX A – WORKSHOP REGISTRATION**

MALE = 5  
FEMALE = 16



**GCCA+**  
THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



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**Climate Change Workshop for National Institute for Health and  
Social Services Monday June 17<sup>th</sup> 2019**

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**ANNEX B – WORKSHOP PHOTOS**

