

Climate Resilient Health System in Somalia



Save the Children

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Climate resilient health system in Somalia--Introduction

- The climate crisis threatens child rights and will worsen global inequalities. More than 99% of deaths attributable to climate-related changes occur in developing countries – over 80% are children (Anthony Lake, UNICEF executive director).
- Puntland is vulnerable to climate change hazard and Karkar region has experienced episodes of flush floods, tropical storms, and droughts.
- There has been a limited technical assessment in Somalia to inform a pathway towards climate-resilient health systems. Therefore, **Save the Children** commissioned to assess the climate resilience of health facilities in the Karkar region in the Puntland state of Somalia.
- The study assessed dimensions like Health workforce, Water and sanitation, health care waste, Energy, Infrastructure, technology, and other products).

Methods (Climate resilient health system in Somalia)

- The study used a multi-level design approach to find all relevant information and used desk/literature review, health facilities survey interviews, and Focus Group Discussions and were conducted in 46 health facilities in Karkar region, Puntland, Somalia.
- Health Facility Assessment was undertaken by deploying a contextualised WHO developed checklists to assess vulnerabilities of health facility in the context of climate change.
- The study assessed dimensions such as Health workforce, Water and sanitation, health care waste, Energy, Infrastructure, technology, and other products).

Key Findings

- About 76% Health Facility Committees (HFCs) noted that health workers are not equipped with knowledge, training, and resources to manage emergencies and reduce climate change hazard risks and impact at Health Facilities (HFs).
- About 85% HFs are essentially unprepared (at high risk) to cope with or respond to climate change hazards (drought, floods, heat waves).
- About 84% of HFs do not have water quality monitoring plan for human consumption.
- Around 64% of HFs do not have emergency back-up generators to cater for the energy requirements for critical services & equipment during hazard conditions while 60% have no safe waste disposal systems.

Challenges and Impact

- The overall preparedness of public health sector, across health governance tiers, for potential climate change hazard is inadequate and there's a pressing need for significant improvement in adaption and resilience interventions.
- One of the key reasons for inadequacy of adaptation measures to address climate change vulnerabilities of HFs is absence of dedicated climate change health policies, plans and procedural guidelines designed to tackle effects of climate hazard either at health facilities, district & regional and state health governance tiers.
- Save the Children working with the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health will support development of a framework for addressing these key issues in the form of Climate Change Action Plan delineating specific strategic directions and objectives for the Puntland Health Authorities to implement necessary interventions for HFs to response to, cope with and adapt to the risk of climate change variability.

Recommendations

- The need to implement climate change health adaptation measures to address HFs problems associated with impact of climate change hazard.
- The need for improved coordination among organizations that deal with climate change issues.
- The need to address capacity building (human, financial and institutional) across health governance tiers.
- The need to address information gaps and to identify critical climate change health areas of research.

One-pager summary (Climate resilient health system)

Problem

The climate crisis threatens child rights and will worsen global inequalities. More than 99% of deaths attributable to climate-related changes occur in developing countries – over 80% are children.

Intervention

- There has been a limited technical assessment in Somalia to inform a pathway towards climate-resilient health systems. Therefore, Save the Children commissioned to assess the climate resilience of health facilities in the Karkar region in the Puntland state of Somalia.

Findings

- The results of health facility (HF) vulnerability assessment show that HFs are essentially unprepared (at high risk) to cope with or respond to climate change hazards (drought, floods, heat waves) across all four key fundamentals requirements for quality care.
- The overall preparedness of public health sector, across health governance tiers, for potential climate change hazard is inadequate and there's a pressing need for significant improvement in adaption and resilience interventions.
- One of the key reasons for inadequacy of adaptation measures to address climate change vulnerabilities of HFs is absence of dedicated climate change health policies, plans and procedural guidelines designed to tackle effects of climate hazard either at health facilities, district & regional and state health governance tiers.

Impact

SC working with the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health will support development of a framework for addressing these key issues in the form of Climate Change Action Plan delineating specific strategic directions and objectives for the Puntland Health Authorities to implement necessary interventions for HFs to response to, cope with and adapt to the risk of climate change variability.