

Folder eCC_00019136 is in stage Annual_Report_Due

Name of the University, Hospital, Research Institute, Academy or Ministry

Curtin University

Name of the Division, Department, Unit, Section or Area

Faculty of Health Sciences

City Perth **Reference Number** AUS-78

Title WHO Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Impact Assessment

Report Year 02-2019 to 02-2020

1. Annual report on the agreed workplan

Describe progress made on the agreed workplan. For each activity, detail (1) the actions taken, (2) the outputs delivered, as well as (3) any difficulties that may have been encountered. Three responses are expected. [maximum 200 words per activity]. Indicate, if an activity has been completed previously, has not yet started or has been placed on hold.

Activity 1

Title: Assist WHO in strengthening the institutional capacity in Member States for HIA through activities coordinated under the HIA Network Asia Pacific

Description: HIA is one of the important policy tools for the health sector to influence other sectors. The Regional Framework for Action on Health and Environment (RCM 2016) recommended WHO to provide support for HIA policies, plans and tools within Strategic Action 1. WHO is asking the CC to undertake activities to support its implementation of this recommendation. WPRO will use the HIA Network Asia Pacific as a knowledge network for Member States contributing to institutional capacity building in relevant countries to exchange their experiences in strengthening governance and institutionalization of HIA, as the implementation of the Regional Framework on HAE

Status: ongoing

The HIA Network has expanded further over the last year with a network of 73 members from across the Asia-Pacific region, offering a platform to share info and knowledge whilst brokering new partnerships and collaborations on matters related to HIA. The Network held two Steering Group meetings last year. The HIA Network Asia Pacific website was maintained and updated on a regular basis, including new HIA publications. Regular Network Updates (6 in total) were produced and incorporated news from members across the region, including content related to new member profiles and introductions, upcoming events and opportunities, HIA related stories from members related to their country or region (e.g., new HIA guidelines, capacity building events) and news related to the WHO CC activities. A HIA Network Facebook site was established and provided members with more regular updates on critical health issues.

Activity 2

Title: Support WHO in developing educational materials for HIA and organizing annual HIA training events

Description: HIA is one of the important policy tools for the health sector to influence other sectors. The Regional Framework for Action on Health and Environment (RCM 2016) recommended WHO to provide support for HIA policies, plans and tools within Strategic Action 1. WHO is asking the CC to undertake activities to support its implementation of this recommendation. WPRO will use the materials and training events of this activity for Member States (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Viet Nam) to build HR capacity to implement the HIA policies, according to the Regional Framework on HAE.

Status: ongoing

Staff from the Centre were engaged by the WHO Country Office in Malaysia for 'Technical Assistance for Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment (VAA) of Climate Related Health Effects. training in climate and health to Ministry of Health staff. The project consisted of a:

- a) 1-day consultative meeting with 22 key stakeholders from health and non-health sectors
- b) 2-day VAA workshop, held on 22nd-23rd October, in Bangi, Malaysia.

The project outputs and associated deliverables were:

- 1) To support the MOH in identifying relevant data and information to be used as case studies during the VAA workshop
- 2) To facilitate a stakeholders' consultative meeting
- 3) To facilitate a VAA workshop for MOH's officers on the criteria/measures to take into consideration for VAA, protecting health from climate change

The final afternoon of the VAA workshop focused on the issue of climate resilient health systems using the WHO Operational framework for building climate resilient health systems (2015). A final report to the WHO Country Office included a series of recommendations regarding delivering VAA training in other countries, plus plans to deliver training related to the WHO Operational Framework for Climate Resilient Health Systems.

Activity 3

Title: Development of guidance materials for sector- or topic-specific HIA tools

Description: HIA is one of the important policy tools for the health sector to influence other sectors. The Regional Framework for Action on Health and Environment (RCM 2016) recommended WHO to provide support for HIA policies, plans and tools within Strategic Action 1. WHO is asking the CC to undertake activities to support its implementation of this recommendation. However, WPRO has constraints of HR resources to support Member States in this subject. Therefore, WPRO is asking the Centre for this activity. WPRO will use the practical guidance and tools developed by this activity for Member States to use in their enforcement of HIA.

Status: ongoing

- In consultation with WHO, the Centre has commenced work on HIA sector-specific guidelines for the transport sector. The guidelines include working tables to support the practical application of HIA in the transport sector and provides decision-makers, health professionals and other stakeholders with an overview of the issues to be considered during an HIA. The Centre has discussed the possibility of publishing the guidelines as a WHO publication to increase their impact and distribution.
- Staff finalised the draft Community Health and Safety Sourcebook commissioned by the Asian Development Bank. The draft sourcebook discussed the application of HIA to manage the potential health impacts to communities from major development projects. The sourcebook is currently under internal review at the ADB.

Activity 4

Title: HIA-related research on health impacts of climate change and health co-benefits of climate actions (mitigation and adaptation)

Description: There are urgent needs in Member States of WHO for HIA of the impacts of climate change and health co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation. WHO is asking the CC to undertake activities to support its implementation of this recommendation. WPRO will use the services and outputs of this activity for Member States (particularly the PICs and the Mekong countries) to identify/estimate the impacts of climate change and climate actions on health and health systems.

Status: ongoing

- The Centre completed a mission to Malaysia to deliver training and capacity building initiatives related to HIA and climate change vulnerability and adaption assessments (VAA) for health. More details are in Activity One.
- The Centre submitted an application to the International Relations Grants Program offered by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) . The application, focussed on expanding the HIA Network Asia Pacific activities to include Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Unfortunately the application was unsuccessful.
- Helen Brown was a panellist on the session “Health impacts of climate change in the Pacific” as part of the inaugural forum of Australian-based WHO Collaborating Centres, held in Melbourne in early December 2019.
- Helen Brown was invited to contribute to a workshop hosted by the Australian government health funding body (NHMRC) which focussed on a forthcoming research funding addressing health implications of environmental change.
- Centre staff commented on the Global Health Alliance Australia’s submission on Australia’s approach to global health programs as part of government’s new international development policy
- Staff provided a written submission to the Western Australian government’s Climate Change and Health Inquiry. Helen Brown and Dianne Katscherian were also called as expert witnesses to the formal Inquiry hearings

2. Annual report on other activities requested

Should WHO have requested activities in addition to the agreed workplan, please describe related actions taken by your institution [maximum 200 words]. Please do not include in this report any activity done by your institution that was not requested by and agreed with WHO.

N/A

3. Resources

Indicate staff time spent on the implementation of activities agreed with WHO (i.e. those mentioned in questions no. 1 and no. 2 above). Do not include any data related to other activities done by your institution without the agreement of WHO. Please indicate staff time using the number of “full-day equivalents” – a day of work comprising 8 hours (e.g. 4 hours work per day for 7 days should be recorded as 3.5 full-day equivalents).

Number of staff involved (either partially or fully)

Senior staff	Mid-career staff	Junior staff, PhD students
2	2	1

Number of full-day equivalents, total for all staff involved

Senior staff	Mid-career staff	Junior staff, PhD students
60	50	40

Implementation of the agreed workplan activities (i.e. those mentioned in questions no. 1 and no. 2 above) normally require resources beyond staff-time, such as the use of laboratory facilities, purchasing of materials, travel, etc. Please estimate the costs of these other resources as a percentage of the total costs incurred (e.g. if you incurred costs of USD 100 and the value of your staff time was USD 50 which makes the total of USD 150, please report 33.3% and 66.7%).

Percentage of costs associated with staff time	Percentage of costs associated with other resources	Total
95.00	5.00	100.00

4. Networking

Describe any interactions or collaboration with other WHO Collaborating Centres in the context of the implementation of the agreed activities. If you are part of a network of WHO Collaborating Centres, please also mention the name of the network and describe your involvement in that network [maximum 200 words].

- Helen Brown attended the inaugural meeting of the Australian Network of WHO Collaborating Centres in Melbourne and was a panellist on “Health impacts of climate change in the Pacific” with Prof Sly, Director of WHO Centre for Children's Health and Environment.
- Helen Brown attended the International Association of Impact Assessment Conference in Brisbane and presented on the HIA Network Asia Pacific at ‘Without Health There is Nothing: Health Achievements in Asia’. All nine session presenters were part of the HIA Network. Dr Brown and other HIA Network members visited Professor Morawksa, Director of WHO Centre on Air Quality and Health to discuss potential collaborations.
- Helen Brown attended the Asian Chapter Symposium of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology and the International Society of Exposure Science in South Korea. The symposium included a WHOCC session in which Marco Martuzzi, head of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health presented on the importance of WHO Collaborating Centres in achieving SDGs in the Western Pacific. Side meetings with 4 other WHO Centres were held: Vietnam National Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health, Vulnerable Population and Environmental Health (Korea), National Institute for Minamata Disease (Japan) and Environmental Health and Prevention of Chemical Hazards (Japan).