

Folder eCC\_00032247 is in stage Annual\_Report\_Review

**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** Bentley **Reference Number** AUS-78

**Title** WHO Collaborating Centre for Climate Change and Health Impact Assessment

**Report Year** 02-2023 to 02-2024

**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: Support WHO in building capacity of Member States on climate change and Health Impact Assessment

Description: HIA is an established planning tool for sustainable development in Member States, with many countries having enshrined the requirement for HIA in national and sub-national legislation. The importance of HIA was highlighted as a specific approach in the 2017 Western Pacific Regional Framework for Action on Health and Environment on a Changing Planet.

Building capacity on HIA of Member states supports the For the Future thematic priority on climate change, the environment and health. WHO CC will support WHO's work to strengthen in-country HIA capacity and develop training webinars for small groups of HIA from Member states and relevant stakeholders as indicated by WHO.

Status: ongoing

Deliverable 1: HIA capacity building

The Curtin WHOCC ran a workshop in February 2023 for 13 participants in Sarawak, Malaysia, in collaboration with Curtin University Malaysia, which utilised our 2015 Guide on Climate Change, Vulnerability, and Health from WHOCC, accessible on our website: <https://s37430.pcdn.co/whocc-cchia/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2023/08/cc-and-HIA-guideline-Curtin-10615-1.pdf>.

At this workshop we tested and refined the methodology, evolving it to better address climate change impacts through a risk assessment lens. We fostered a multidisciplinary approach with attendees from: Curtin Malaysia; the local Sarawak government Department of Planning; an expert in forestry from another university; and a local business called ESG. Simultaneously, we met with WPRO to plan possible future initiatives, extending our preparations to include diverse countries like Mongolia.

In terms of outputs and considering it was a workshop procedure to test with peers from Curtin University Sarawak and stakeholders with whom we felt comfortable exploring the potential limitations with, we opted to utilise the time to summarise the insights provided by the participants instead of generating a training report per se. A document was developed during the session summarising the discussions (available upon request). The final session concentrated on two key tasks: defining priorities for future endeavours and consolidating participants' insights on the local Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of Sarawak's climate change risks, focussed around water quality and quantity.

Difficulties encountered in this activity included:

- Scoping the topic, need for systemic thinking
- Obtaining in-country contacts, logistics, and mode of delivery

Deliverable 2: Mentoring program

Actions: Mentoring and training webinar for small groups of HIA and health practitioners from Member States.

Deliverable: Quarterly mentoring for small groups of HIA and health practitioners (approximately five per group) identified through established and emerging networks as agreed with WHO.

Status: Not started. As per the TOR this is to start in 2024.

## Activity 2

Title: Provide technical input and support for WHO's consideration towards its development and dissemination of HIA guidelines that integrate climate change assessments and enable Member States to meet their sustainable development agenda

Description: HIA provides a powerful tool for developing stronger narratives and arguments about the relationship between environmental degradation and health; the role of WHO to support countries in this goal is noted under the thematic priority of climate change, the environment and health (CCE) in the 2020 For the Future white paper. This activity can thus promote Pillar 1 of the WHO-WPRO Strategy Document on CCE by providing advocacy and raising the profile of the CCE agenda by articulating the health co-benefits of actions and policies from non-health sectors, including in Member States' development agenda as assessed by HIA.

Status: ongoing

Deliverable 3: New regional HIA guidelines

The Curtin WHOCC was requested by the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region (ACE) to develop a scoping review paper on approaches to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for climate-health activity in the Western Pacific Region.

This 20 page, fully referenced scoping paper provided an initial exploration of the key issues around M&E for developing climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems across three dimensions of climate-health activity: (1) health systems strengthening, (2) population health, and (3) multisectoral action. It also provided a set of recommendations for consideration at the 2023 meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Climate Change, the Environment and Health (CCE TAG) in the Western Pacific Region.

This output was ultimately not presented at the CCE TAG due to other requirements for the meeting agenda. However, this is a strong output which we are looking forward to working with the ACE team in taking forward in 2024.

## Activity 3

Title: Undertake collaborative research and promote technical standards in line with WHO's recommendations to monitor the health impacts of climate change in Member States to mitigate and adapt to changing environments

Description: This activity will support Pillar 3 of the WHO-WPRO Strategy Document on CCE: monitoring the impact of climate change and the environment on health (to provide timely, accurate and strategic information to inform decision-making, guide advocacy, drive action, and track impacts and success of interventions).

Status: ongoing

Deliverable 4: Data needs, capacity and infrastructure assessment

The Malaysian workshop project described in Activity 1 led to a related data needs assessment, yielding outputs such as a preliminary analysis based on mortality data obtained per province and air pollution data obtained from a global atmospheric model created by colleagues at the UK Centre for Hydrology and Ecology. However, challenges arose due to government policies restricting researcher accessibility of the mortality data.

Deliverable 5: Epidemiological assessments

Actions taken toward epidemiological assessments included developing environmental health indicators using the DPSEEA framework, exemplified by the WHOCC's collaboration with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) on national environmental health indicators and the HEAL observatory indicators project.

## 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.**

The WHO requested that as a Collaborating Centre our new website and logo only use the WHO name and emblem in specific ways that comply with the strict guidelines as described in the terms and conditions including the approval process that we ask for authorised use of any material and also the use of certain colours and fonts. In consultation with WHO WPRO staff and the Curtin University media team we created a compliant website <https://research.curtin.edu.au/whocc-cchia/> and in June held a website launch and Centre re-designation celebration event with a day set aside for stakeholder engagement and strategic planning with a guest speaker from WPRO Health and the Environment (HAE) which were all advertised using the approved materials as requested by WHO.

## 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
3	0	2

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

Senior staff	Mid-career staff	Junior staff, PhD students
40	0	10

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
100.00	0.00	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].**

The Deputy Director of our WHOCC has joined the Executive Committee of the Australian Network of World Health Organization Collaborating Centres. This committee supports interactions, collaboration and networking with other WHOCCs. The committee aims to: (1) support and promote Australian WHOCCs to exchange information, foster good practices, and develop technical cooperation amongst each other and with WHO, State and Federal governments; and (2) build effective partnerships both domestically and in the region, which is achieved through a coordinated approach to communicating and knowledge sharing within the Network and with key stakeholders.

Detailed meetings occurred with two WHOCCs to develop potential projects: (1) Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute at Sydney University, and (2) WHO Collaborating Centre in Geospatial Disease Modelling at the Telethon Kids Institute in Perth.

The Curtin WHOCC is also a core member and theme lead within the Australian Healthy Environments and Lives (HEAL) and the Centre for Safe Air (CSA) which are National Research Networks (<https://healnetwork.org.au/> and <https://safear.org.au/>) funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The Curtin WHOCC plays an important role in guiding the development of this network and enhancing climate change and health research and practice in Australia and broader Pacific region.