



Climate Change Challenges in South Asian development Initiatives :Establishing Intersectoral Relationships

At the Session on: Climate Change and Development Concerns
8th Feb, 2008
OWSA, Annual Regional Meeting 2008

Dr Siddharth Agarwal, Aastha Sindhwani
Urban Health Resource Center, New Delhi



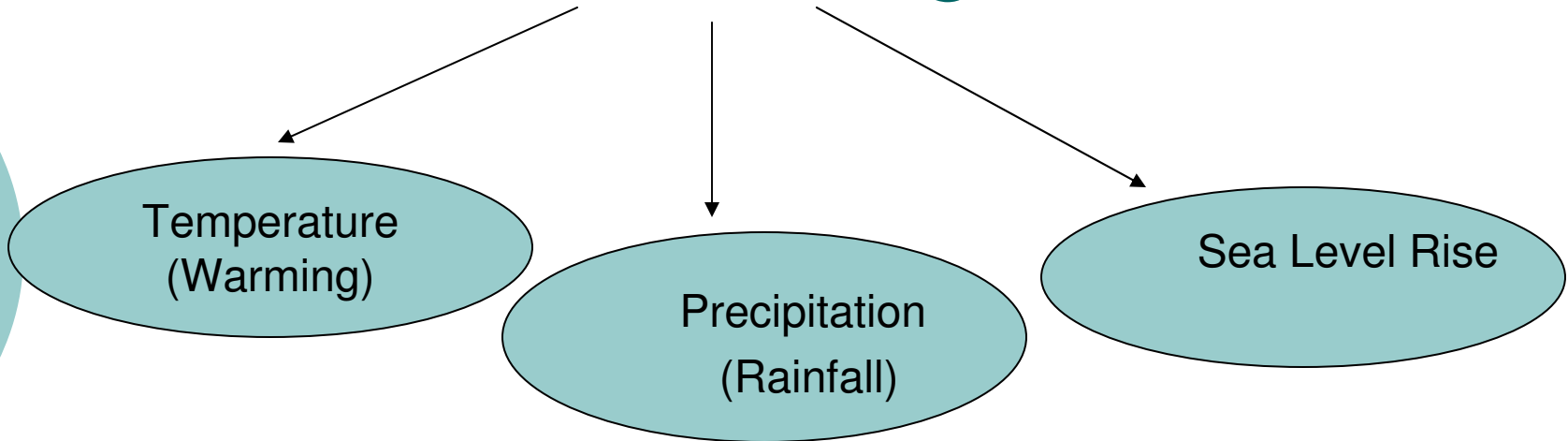
Outline of the Presentation

- How Climate Change is affecting Health and Well-being
- Climate Change : A Threat towards achieving MDGs
- Intersectoral Relationships: Suggested Mechanisms



How Climate Change is affecting Health and Well-being

Climate Changes



- Global climate change projections¹

Year	Temp (°C)	Precipitation (%)	Sea level rise (cm)
2020	1.4 ± 0.3	2 ± 1%	4-8
2050	2.5 ± 0.4 ⁰ C	3 ± 1%	15-38
2080	3.8 ± 0.5 ⁰ C	7 ± 3%	46-59

1-Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change-III Assessment Report



Warming Related Impacts

- Increased susceptibility to infections
 - Vector Borne e.g. Malaria, Dengue Fever
 - Water Borne e.g. Cholera, Dysentery
- Increased risk of other morbidities
 - Heat strokes
 - Skin diseases e.g. skin burns , skin cancer
- Acceleration in Himalayan glacier melt leading to floods and associated health problems.



Precipitation Related Risks

- Increase in monsoon rainfall increasing the risk of Vector borne diseases.
- Declining winter rainfall and increasing intensity of rainfall leading to reduced crop yield and exacerbates malnutrition
- Floods, storms leading to displacement and death.
- Changes in natural systems threaten livelihoods, food intake and health of poor people especially whose subsistence is based on fisheries, forests



Rise in Sea Level

- Sharp rise in coastal rivers and inland flooding of coastal areas
 - Disrupted water supply and sanitation systems, increased risk of water-borne diseases
 - Increase in breeding sites for mosquito vectors leading to outbreaks of disease
 - Increased risk of diseases like Leptospirosis
 - Damaged transport systems and health care infrastructure
 - Increased post-traumatic stress disorders



Climate Change: A Threat Towards Achieving MDGs



Directly Affected MDG's

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty
- Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality
- Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases.
- Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability



Intersectoral Relationships: Suggested Mechanisms



Suggested Mechanisms

- Core group at National and State levels to facilitate linkages for mitigating future degradation of environment and climate
 - Emergency response team/cell especially in vulnerable States
 - Education, capacity building of school and university students to prepare them for disaster management.
 - Environment programs should formulate and implement strict laws to mitigate green house gas emissions.
 - Greater preparedness of health system to tackle water and vector borne diseases.
- South Asia experience sharing portal or alternative mechanism



Suggested Mechanisms

- Building and infrastructure risk mitigation standards should be strictly followed
- Disaster management authority to expand ongoing risk mitigation programmes to incorporate possible climate change impacts.
 - A public-private partnership to develop strategies to tackle floods, cyclone, storms etc.
 - To strengthen the linkages, capacity and accessibility of information and resources on climate change across different sectors that would feed into provincial and national plans of action.



How Can Citizens and Civil Society Contribute?

- Establish climate change risk mitigation networks
 - Generate awareness about hazards of climate change.
 - Help vulnerable sections deal with the climate change risks
- Minimize green house gas emissions from vehicles and industries.
- Promote plantation of trees, forest/green area
- Promote water conservation and use of renewable sources of energy e.g. use of wind power, solar energy.

A Planet under stress and a Civilization in Trouble



It's in our hands to save the world