

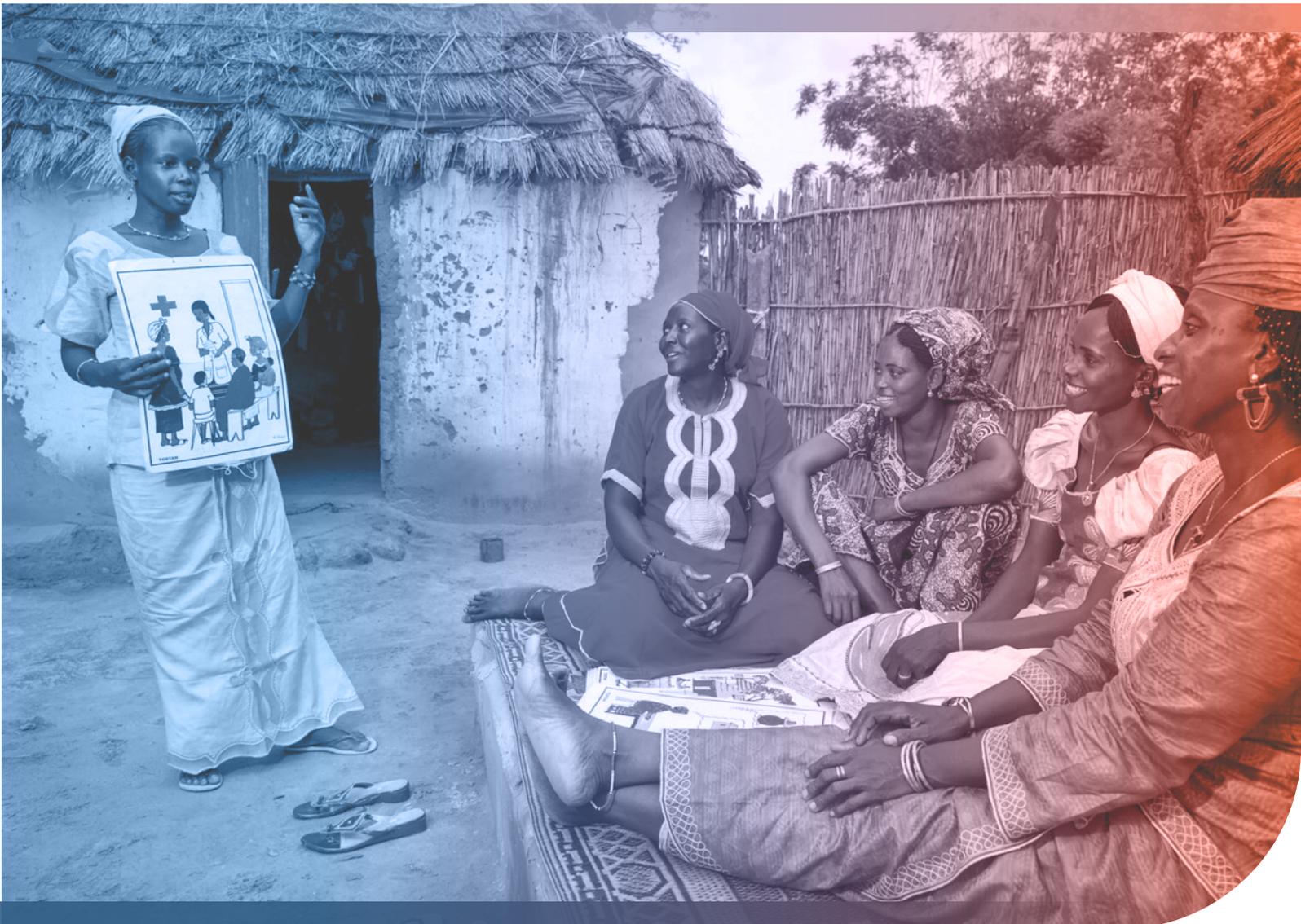
REVIEW

Health in National Adaptation Plans



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Health in national adaptation plans: review

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Abbreviations

CCHSAP	(Fiji) Climate Change and Health Strategic Action Plan 2016–2020
CSHR	climate-sensitive health risk
HNAP	Health National Adaptation Plan
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive summary

Climate change has significant impacts on health, both directly (e.g. injury or death from extreme weather events; heat illnesses related to temperature increases) and indirectly (e.g. malnutrition; increased spread of vector-borne diseases; impacts on mental health).

As part of the response to the threats posed by climate change across all sectors, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010, in the Cancun Agreements.

The aim of the NAP process is to build resilience to climate change across economies, societies and ecosystems over the medium and longer term. This is achieved by analysing current and future climate change impacts, assessing vulnerabilities, and identifying, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions to respond. Led by national governments, NAP processes involve a range of government actors and nongovernmental stakeholders.

Many countries and areas are taking a sector-based approach to adaptation planning, using key sectors and systems as the basis for assessing vulnerabilities and identifying adaptation actions to tackle these. Some countries and areas are including sector- or system-specific adaptation actions in overarching NAPs, some are developing separate sector-based adaptation plans, and some are doing both.

This review analyses 19 of the 20 NAPs submitted to NAP Central, the UNFCCC NAP portal, by 31 December 2020 to assess the extent to which health was considered in adaptation planning processes.¹ A content analysis of these NAPs was performed according to a set of predetermined indicators assessing target populations; climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments; coverage of climate-sensitive health risks, adaptation needs and proposed adaptation actions; and implementation mechanisms.

The review found that all NAPs highlight health as a high-priority sector vulnerable to climate change. The extent to which the health risks are considered and addressed, however, varies. Several areas of opportunity for strengthening the resilience of health systems through the NAP process were identified:

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