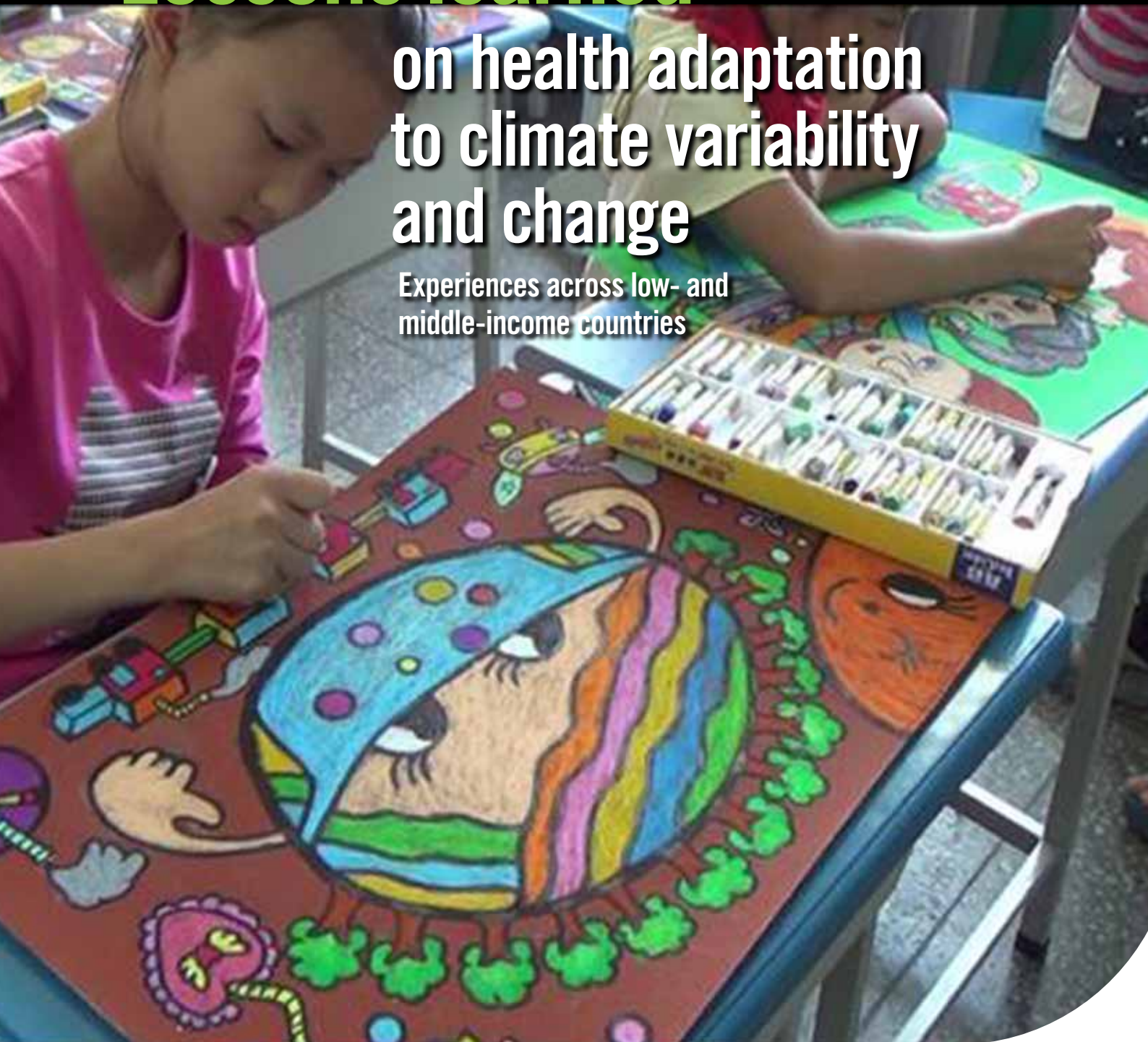


Lessons learned

on health adaptation to climate variability and change

Experiences across low- and
middle-income countries



World Health
Organization

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WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Lessons learned on health adaptation to climate variability and change: experiences across low- and middle-income countries.

1.Climate Change. 2.Environmental Health. 3.Risk Assessment. 4.Developing Countries. I.World Health Organization.

ISBN 978 92 4 156495 3

(NLM classification: WA 30.5)

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Printed in Switzerland

Cover photo: Courtesy of Institute for Environmental Health and Related Product Safety, China CDC

Photo caption: Health education activity in progress at a primary school in Chongqing, China for raising students' awareness about health impacts of climate change (UNDP/WHO GEF project).

Copy editing and layout: Inis Communication – www.iniscommunication.com

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Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the anonymous key informants, including project staff from the WHO/UNDP/GEF project, that kindly agreed to participate in the interviews and focus group discussion and shared valuable reflections and experiences.

The authors are also grateful to Dr Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum (WHO) for his support in the strategic thinking and preparation of the focus group consultation and his valuable comments on the document. The authors would also like to thank WHO colleagues who provided helpful and valuable comments on the draft document: Bonifacio Magtibay, Hamed Abdelqader Bakir, Elena Villalobos Prats, Marina Maiero, Bettina Menne, Vladimir Kendrovski, Mao Jixiang, Moh Nasir Hassan and Yeom Jung Sub.

We would also like to acknowledge the donors to the projects on which the assessment is based; the WHO/UNDP project on “Piloting Health Adaptation to Climate Change”, funded by the Global Environmental Facility; health and climate change projects funded by the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund; and the WHO Regional Office for Europe project “Protecting health from climate change: a seven-country initiative” funded by the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

This report was supported by the Global Program Adaptation to Climate Change in the Health Sector implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).¹ We thank Lena Borgmann and Ute Jugert (GIZ) for their valuable comments on the report.

¹ German Development Cooperation

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Abbreviations

BMU	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
CORDEX	Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment
DoH	Department of Health
EPA	environmental protection agency
EWS	early warning system
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HWTS	household water treatment and safe storage
ICT	information, communication and technology
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRS	indoor residual spraying
ITN	insecticide-treated net
K	key informant
LMICs	low- and middle-income countries
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDG-F	Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund
MEWS	malaria early warning system
MoH	Ministry of Health
SRH	sexual and reproductive health
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WASH	water, sanitation, hygiene and health
WHO	World Health Organization
WSP	water safety plan

Executive summary

Climate variability and change are exacerbating many current climate-sensitive health outcomes and have the potential to affect the ability of health system institutions and organizations to maintain or improve health burdens in the context of changing climate and development patterns. Advancing management of these risks requires systems-based and holistic approaches to adaptation. Research and practice that crosses disciplinary boundaries are vital for supporting evidence-based policies and programmes to effectively and efficiently address the health risks of climate variability and change in the context of multistressor environments.

Goals and activities

The goals of this report are to:

- identify lessons learned and good practice examples from pilot health adaptation projects;
- discuss the potential for scaling up; and
- identify key barriers and challenges to scaling up successful interventions.

Two activities were undertaken to achieve these goals:

- a desk review and synthesis of the first five years of implementation (2008–2013) of multinational health adaptation projects in low- and middle-income countries worldwide; and
- qualitative data collection through targeted interviews and focus group discussions to identify barriers, challenges and opportunities for implementation and scaling up of adaptation interventions.

The report will be incorporated into a global operational framework developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) for climate change adaptation in the health sector.

The desk review included evaluation reports and other materials from three multicountry

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