

Human Health: The Issue of/for Climate Change Adaptation Strategies

SeaTrust Institute



Nurses Across The Borders



COP16 Cancun, Mexico 7 December , 2010

This joint event uses scientific knowledge to support health practitioners in tangible climate change adaptation actions, highlighting malaria. We explore ways to improve adaptive strategies in regions with low adaptive capacity, and catalyze a COP16 health coalition.

Human Health: The Issue of/for Climate Change Adaptation Strategies

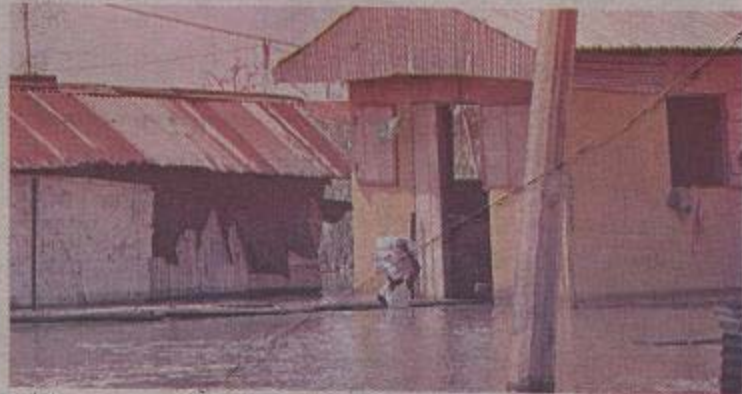
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Ajgunle flood disaster as captured by Bunmi Azzez



Family rendered homeless by the flood



A teenager carrying three bags of 'pure' water is almost lost in the flood.



Deserted village



Okada riders lording the 'river'.



A woman and her kids trapped

ing and other relevant issues that would make the transition smooth and meaningful.

Jonathan, who was represented at the event by Vice President, Namadi Sambo, said that government was aware of the crucial need to successfully transit to digital broadcasting and would leave no stone unturned to achieve it within the set deadline of 2012.

The President commended the contributions of the broadcast sector in nation building, stressing that broadcasters had continued to entertain, educate and inform the public about happenings around them and getting elected officials to live up to their responsibility as well as playing their constitutional role of holding government accountable to the people.

In her address, Minister of Information and Communications, Prof. Dora Akunyili, called on the African continent to ensure that the switchover date for digital terrestrial broadcasting was not delayed so that the continent would not be left behind in the effort to modernise the broadcast industry in the world.

Akunyili described the event as part of efforts to reappraise the African communications perspective by providing a platform for broadcast industry to exchange ideas.

Cancer, Windsor, Canada, is like the story of Pamela's father, Dr. Ovdje, who several years ago, invented the Eat-Set machine that has won for him several awards worldwide. The machine is deployed during operations to harvest the blood of the patient for auto-

graduate students enrolled in their biochemistry lab caused commercially available human leukaemia cells to effectively commit suicide within 24 hours, they reported in an article published in the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*.

in leukaemia cells very quickly," said Chatterjee, who defended her master's thesis September 15. "They were almost all dead within 24 hours. In fact, they even continued to die after the extract was removed."

in animals or humans," Ovdje cautioned.

But Dr. Pandey said their research—funded by the local Knights of Columbus, Council 9671—provides the lab with a strong platform to test the

bioactive research on cancer and pancreatic cancer—a natural derivative of a Hawaiian spider lily plant that has shown promising results—at the Natural Health Products Research Society conference in Halifax in May.

African ministers move to boost health sector

From Lillian Chukwu, Abuja

RISING from a regional public health summit, African health ministers yesterday resolved to establish a joint initiative that permits multi-sectoral involvement for prevention and control of public health problems in participating countries.

Speaking at the end of the two-day deliberations in Abuja, Minister of Health, Prof. Onyebuchi Chukwu, stated that the movement of people and goods across borders had increased the risk of spread of diseases within the Africa region and beyond.

The minister read out the resolutions which are now referred to as the "Abuja Commitments 2010" and urged participatory countries "to boost epidemiological surveillance and management of epidemics in border areas and the adoption of World Health Organisation

Also concerned about the continued loss of lives and sufferings caused by trans-border diseases like cholera, meningitis, poliomyelitis, Guinea worm, neglected tropical diseases and other prevalent communicable diseases, the resolutions identified the need to promote community-based initiatives on information, education and encouragement of initiatives on early detections of epidemics and improvement of water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

Generic Integrated Disease Surveillance Response Guidelines, International Health Regulations (2005) and Eradication of Guinea Worm (RC38) memorandums."

Resolved too, is that the circulation and use of counterfeit medicines has necessitated the need to establish a respective national agency for drug control, as well as inter and intra-country multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral committees to include

heads of drug agencies, the police, immigration and other security agencies.

The meeting conceived by Chukwu at the last 60th World Health Regional Committee in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea had in attendance ministers of six other African countries—Niger, Chad, Cameroun, Benin, Equatorial Guinea and Central African Republic. It was opened by Vice President Namadi Sambo, who represented President Goodluck

Jonathan.

Also concerned about the continued loss of lives and sufferings caused by trans-border diseases like cholera, meningitis, poliomyelitis, Guinea worm, neglected tropical diseases and other prevalent communicable diseases, the resolutions identified the need to promote community-based initiatives on information, education and encouragement of initiatives on early detections of epidemics and improvement of water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

Earlier, applauding collaborative efforts by partner agencies of African health development like the WHO, United Nations, Center for Disease Control, West African Health Organization (WAHO), Dr. Luis Sambo, WHO Regional Director for Africa encouraged countries to support the establishment of an African Public Health, Emergency Fund to

support member states to combat epidemics and other public health emergencies.

He also raised issues on differences in official languages among neighbouring countries that pose a challenge to cross-border collaboration.

Sambo also called on "countries that share borders to undertake joint commitments to strengthen disease surveillance, health promotion and outbreak response capacity" with reference to Nigeria's success in achieving 98 per cent decline in wild poliovirus transmission.

WAHO Director-General, Dr. Placido Cardoso, told *The Guardian*: "This kind of meeting is what we are encouraging countries to do because it is something put together by several countries on cross border issues, not only of disease control but public health issues in general. Though there had been other meetings but this one is different, coming from different sub-region in Africa."

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ABC

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Former governor of Ekiti State, Niyi Adebayo (left); author of the books, Mr. Olufemi Ogunsanwo, Guest of Honour and ex-Vice President, Alex Ekwueme, Chairman of the occasion, Harry Akande and representative of the Governor of Ondo State, Saka Lawal during the presentation of three books, *Awo-Unfinished Greatness*, *Gowon-The Supreme Commander* and *Ogunsanwo-Baptism of Fire* at Sheraton Hotel, Lagos...yesterday

Nigeria donates N1.5b to Global Fund

From Lasu Akande (New York) and Lillian Chukwu (Abuja)

NIGERIA has donated N1.5 billion (\$10 million) to the Global Fund for women, children and the fight against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Tuberculosis and Malaria (ATM) and other health-related matters.

Also, the nation is among six nations the United Nations health agency, the World Health Organisation (WHO) will provide technical support for the treatment of mental disorders, epilepsy and other illnesses.

Minister of Health, Prof. Onyebuchi Chukwu announced Nigeria's contribution at the recently concluded Global Fund Third Voluntary Replenishment

WHO backs country's bid to check mental disorder, others

2011 to 2013.

He said: "The GFTVR is an opportunity for the government to restate its commitment to the health and well-being of its citizens in furtherance of Nigeria's endorsement and commitment in support of UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon's new initiative - the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health."

In a statement by the Special Assistant on Communications to the Minister, Rakiya Zubairu, Chukwu confirmed Nigeria's total contribution since the establishment of the fund in 2002 to be \$30 million.

He noted that the country had benefited enormously

from the support of the Fund for the rapid scale-up of interventions in its response to ATM, as well as in strengthening health systems.

The minister also noted progress made in the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals. He said "a total of 107,122 People Living With HIV/AIDS are on Anti-Retroviral Therapy, 90,078 new smear-positive Tuberculosis cases have been detected and treated; while 7,452,173 insecticide treated long lasting nets have been distributed with Global Fund support."

Other pledges made to the fund include the United States with the highest donation of \$4 billion, and China with \$14

million. Only two other African countries made pledges - South Africa, \$2.1 million and Tunisia-\$2 million.

According to a United Nations statement, WHO had recently unveiled new guidelines, an intervention guide designed to facilitate the management of depression, alcohol use disorders, epilepsy and other common mental disorders in the primary health-care setting and selected few countries, including Nigeria where it would help with the implementation of the guide.

Noting that millions of people with common, but untreated, mental, neurological and substance use disorders would benefit from the

new simplified diagnosis and treatment guidelines, WHO added that evidence-based guidelines in the intervention guide were presented as flow charts to simplify the process of providing care in the primary health-care setting by non-mental health specialists, including doctors, nurses and other health providers.

"In a key achievement, the Intervention Guide transforms a world of expertise and clinical experience, contributed by hundreds of experts, into less than 100 pages of clinical wisdom and succinct practical advice," says Margaret Chan, the WHO Director-General.

WHO, in collaboration with partners, will provide technical support for countries to implement the guidelines and has already initiated the programme for scaling up care in six countries including Nigeria, Ethiopia, Jordan, Panama, Sierra Leone and Solomon Islands.

managing awareness campaigns and capacity building among stakeholders.

Nigerians abroad give aid to check cholera

From Lasu Akande, New York

A GROUP of Nigerians living abroad under the umbrella of Nigeria Global Diaspora Forum (NGDF) has delivered medical aid to the country towards battling what the United Nations (UN) has now described as the worst cholera outbreak in recent years.

In a statement at the weekend, a UN agency reported: "Nigeria is in the midst of its worst cholera outbreak in recent years, with nearly 40,000 cases and more than 1,500 deaths reported since the start of the year."

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the number of cholera cases so far in 2010 in Nigeria "is nearly three times the total for all of last year and seven times that of 2008."

Similarly, the Red Cross estimates that women and children account for 80 per cent of this year's cases.

But in a concerted effort by NGDF, a medical and humanitarian response to the situation in form of medical supplies landed in Abuja on October 23 "when a batch of medical aid, comprising antibiotics and other items touched down at the International Wing of the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport Abuja," according to a statement the group disclosed in New York yesterday morning.

According to the statement, the medical supplies are "designated for victims of cholera outbreak in Nigeria under the Nigerian Diaspora Cholera Relief Initiative." It added that the sponsors of the initiative had put together a network of partners including the Nigerian Red Cross and the National Hospital Abuja, as well as on the ground.

By Andrew Iro Okungbowa

WITH an inflation rate hovering at about eight per cent, a stable polity and fiscal policy regime, huge returns on investments and hospitable people, Ghana should be a haven for Nigerian investors wishing to see a rapid growth in their businesses.

This was the message from Ghana's Minister for Tourism, Mrs. Zita Okaikol, and other top executives who were in Nigeria to woo not just holiday-makers who have in recent years made Ghana their favourite destination, but also the business community.

Jonathan seeks

From Emeka Anuforo, Abuja

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan yesterday warned that Nigeria could remain among the poorest countries of the world if it continued to rely on "development paradigms crafted abroad."

Jonathan, who spoke at the opening of a national non-oil conference, exhibition and awards in Abuja, stressed that the only way for the country to prepare itself as one of the 20 most developed economies in the world by 2020 was to embrace a local blueprint for development.

Speaking on the place of planning in national development, he stressed that a nation without a vision was like a ship without a captain. His words: "The vision must be indigenous, not imported or borrowed and must be owned by the people. Only visions that are owned by the people because they

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Danger As Canal In Olodi Apapa Overflows

By Oloruntimehin Doyin

BEFORE now, the devastation was experienced sparsely in some farmlands in the north. Some months ago, it struck Abeokuta and a fortnight ago, the menacing surge of flood swept through Ogun State into Lagos and left in its wake a deluge of water, which rendered many residents in Ikorodu homeless.

While displaced residents of the latest tragedy are settling in to a new life at Camp Agbowo, another area, Olodi Apapa in Ajegunle, has joined the list of communities at the risk of flooding, when its canal, last week, overflowed into the streets, a situation that was worsened by a heavy downpour.

The canal is the tributary of a river that flows from Ijora and which passes through Ajegunle into Apapa before emptying itself into Tin-Can River.

At present, just a few streets are affected by the canal overflow, but it could grow into a major disaster if the bank of the canal breaks in and releases water into the neighbourhood. Already, a long line of shanties is springing up along the bank of the canal with some structures erected on the flood plain channel.

The affected areas are Market, Salubi, Mission, Ambrose Akinbosoye, Aribu, Tajudeen Alade and Rabi'u Adio streets. Living in these affected areas is a nightmare for residents as the streets are perpetually flooded and one has to wade through a pool of smelly water to move around.

According to 38-year old Mafimisebi Ayo, who has lived in Market Street since he was born, the canal was once a river. "We use to swim in the river and kill fish which we ate or sometimes sell, but now that it has turned out to be a canal, it is of no use to residents. The water is not drinkable and it has become a dumping ground for waste chemicals by CocaCola.

As it is though, the canal has other uses, it has become toilet arena for most people living in the area and a means of transport by canoe to Apapa for just N10 per person," he said.

Ayo explained further that anytime the canal overflows into the area, the street is filled with debris and smelly water. "During this period, there is a lot of mosquito in the area and dis-

eases one cannot even mention. In fact, one gets half dressed if going to the office because of the water. For me, I am always lazy about going out."

Most of the residents are migrants from Ilaje town in Ondo State, who trade as fishermen. For them, the neighbourhood serves two purposes, as a residential and commercial area.

Ayenugba Tayo, a fisherman who has lived in Aribu for most of his adult life said, "the area is bad due to the water that flows into the street and messes up the whole area but I can't leave here for anything in the world, because this is where my business is and this is where my family resides."

However, some months ago, the Lagos State government issued a relocation notice to those living by the bank of the canal, but nothing is yet to be done to effect the order or arrest the overflow of the canal into the street.



The canal



Mission street, Apapa

Lekki Communities Protest Land Encroachment By Firm

By Bertram Nwannekanma

Threaten Legal Action

up our land, including our cassava and maize their action, which includes the destruction of our clients' crops, agricultural products

Cityfile

Co-ordinated By: Tope Templer Olalya

Flood Sacks Rumudumanya Residents In Rivers

From Ann Godwin, Port Harcourt

THE chronic flooding problem experienced during rainy seasons in Rivers State is increasingly making life difficult for residents. Every year, between May and September, the state becomes flooded and despite efforts to tackle the perennial challenge, the situation keeps getting worse.

Currently, about 50 residents at Rumudumanya community, in Omachi

Estate of Obi-Akpor local council area of the state have been displaced due to incessant downpours and lack of drainage. This is in addition to severe erosion suffered by residents of the area.

Investigations by *The Guardian* revealed that flooding problems have caused serious damage to properties and structures worth several millions of naira.

The sight is indeed pathetic. Most of the houses have been overtaken by flood, thereby forcing the occupants to flee, while businesses in the area have completely collapsed.

One of the residents at Omachi Estate, Mrs. Hellen Nkendirir, narrates her experience, "About 40 of us are camping in one flat given to us by a good Samaritan, while others have gone back to their villages because of this unexplainable flood you are seeing here."

She continued, "the flood problems happen in this estate every year and it can last for about four months; yet the gov-

Health Concerns As Mama Put Feeds The Poor

P4

Ayegun And Okerete...Hope Rises For Border Communities

P5



Photos: ADENIRAN AYODELE

People in this part of the city are highly neglected, our roads are bad and now flood has ruined our houses, we are living

of the people.

He said the committee is working intensively, clearing the

**Interior minister
commends Amnesty
International**

From Bety Aderibigbo, Abuja

THE Minister of Interior, Emmanuel Ihenacho, has commended the Amnesty International for its ceaseless efforts at speaking out for the large number of voiceless individuals across the globe in its sustained campaign to ensure strict adherence to human rights.

In a statement by the Acting Director, Press and Public Relations, Timothy Oyedede, the minister made the commendation at a visit by a team from the Amnesty International. Ihenacho described the body as a "non-political, ideologically neutral with no economic interest while writing its reports on Human Rights Situation all over the world." He enjoined the team not to rest on its oars.

Responding to the issues raised by the visiting delegation, Ihenacho urged Nigerian prisons to become better citizens ready to integrate perfectly into the larger society after they are released from their jail terms.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Noel Kututwa requested collaborative efforts with the ministry on issues relating to prisons.

Cholera cases now 37,289, 1,434 deaths

By Chukwuma Muanya

CONTRARY to a widely published United Nations (UN) report that put the cholera cases and death tolls in Nigeria at 38,173 and above 1,500 respectively, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) has said that the country had 37,289 cholera cases and 1,434 deaths between January 1, 2010 and October 25, 2010.

Chief Epidemiologist FMOH, Dr. Henry Akpan, told *The Guardian*: "We base our figures from reports we get from the states and our partners who are working in the states. We do not base our figures on newspaper reports. In epidemiology there are processes."

"Well I can confirm to you that since January 1, 2010 and today, October 26, 2010, we have recorded 37,289 cases of cholera and 1,434 deaths. Any other report is wrong. Presently our staff and our

The current outbreak is the worst in Nigeria since 1991, when 7,654 people died, according to WHO statistics.

In many villages, sewage flows down dirt paths during the rainy season, allowing faeces to contaminate communal wells. Almost half the country's 150 million people lack access to clean water and proper sanitation, even though the government earns billions of dollars a year as one of Africa's top oil exporters, the WHO says.

partners are on ground in the states addressing the situation."

According to the UN, cholera has killed more than 1,500 people in Nigeria this year, more than four times the death tolls reported by the government in August.

The lethal waterborne disease has spread to Nigeria's West African neighbours Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin, where it has thrived because of severe rains and flooding.

According to UN figures, 1,555 people have died from cholera in Nigeria since January and 38,173 cases have been reported. The figure is

more than four times the death toll the government reported in August.

UN officials said the numbers were based on the latest reports from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Red Cross and government agencies.

"The rains this year have been very severe... [The outbreak] is considerably worse this year," Paula Fedeski, a spokeswoman for United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) in Nigeria, told *Reuters*.

The current outbreak is the worst in Nigeria since 1991, when 7,654 people died, according to WHO statistics.

The highest death tolls were

in the northern states of Borno, Katsina and Bauchi, comprised mostly of small Muslim villages that have been hit by heavy rains. But there were also cases in southern states, including Rivers and Cross River in the Niger Delta, the heartland of Nigeria's oil industry.

The number of reported cases so far this year is almost three times the number for the whole of 2009, although Fedeski said that was partly because of improved data collection. The Red Cross estimates that women and children account for 80 per cent of this year's cases.

Heavy rains and flooding in

rural areas, where safe drinking water and sanitary facilities are scarce, have fuelled the outbreak, which is generally spread through food and water contaminated with bacteria.

In many villages, sewage flows down dirt paths during the rainy season, allowing faeces to contaminate communal wells. Almost half the country's 150 million people lack access to clean water and proper sanitation, even though the government earns billions of dollars a year as one of Africa's top oil exporters, the WHO says.

Chris Cormency, a Senegal-based UNICEF official who is monitoring the epidemic, said poor basic education among rural villagers and a lack of staffed clinics and hospitals allowed the disease quickly to claim lives.

"Most people have heard of cholera but have never been touched directly by cholera," Cormency added. "Next year, it might come up in the same state but in a different region."



Cholera, lead poisoning kill 425 children in Zamfara, Yobe

From Njardara Musa, Damaturu (With agency report)

LEAD poisoning has killed more than 400 children under five in the past six months in Zamfara State, an international humanitarian group, Medecines Sans Frontieres (MSF) or Doctors Without Borders, said yesterday.

Also, despite the efforts of the state's Ministry of Health to contain further spread of cholera in Yobe, 25 people, mainly children below the age five, died yesterday at the Gashua General Hospital after receiving over 105 cases of diarrhoea and vomiting.

Confirming the casualty figure yesterday in Damaturu, Yobe State Coordinator of World Health Organisations (WHO), Isa Adamu, disclosed that the renewed outbreak of cholera was caused by drinking contaminated water from hand-dug wells and ponds in the affected communities, which lacked portable water.

Meanwhile, having taken an overview of efforts by the state ministries of Health, Water Resources, Environment and Local Government and Chiefdom Affairs, to stem the cholera outbreak in Yobe, State Coordinator of the European Union (EU) water agency, Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform Programme (WSSSRP), Kabiru Abass, has submitted that these government agencies lacked the capacity on their own to tackle the problem.

Abass made this submission yesterday in Damaturu in his maiden address on the "2010 Global Hand Washing Campaign," tagged: "Kicking out cholera and water-borne diseases with collaborative strategies."

"Based on record of fatalities from lead poisoning, more than 400 children have died in the last six months," said El-Shafii Muhammad Ahmad, project director for Medecines Sans Frontieres (MSF).

"But we in MSF believe the figure is much more than that, Ahmad told AFP on the phone from Zamfara.

A lead poisoning epidemic linked to illegal gold mining hit the state at the start of the year.

The intoxications were caused by the illegal extraction of ore by villagers, who would transport crushed rock home from the mines to extract the gold. The soil containing lead deposits would then be hazily disposed of, exposing children to inhalation or ingestion.

Ahmad said reports of 400 deaths "is an underestimation because many lead-related deaths are never reported and in many cases, these communities attribute them to other factors or deny them altogether."

He said local communities mainly concealed or denied the fatalities and illnesses from lead poisoning for fear that authorities would ban their mining activities.

According to Adamu, "the renewed outbreak of this disease was mainly confined to communities in Zanggo, which lack not only portable water but proper planning and standard sewage system in disposing household and human wastes."

Dr. Mohammed Garkuwa, the Gashua hospital resident doctor said: "Many of these patients died at home or immediately after being rushed to the hospital or this cholera camp after losing a lot of body fluids."



Prof. Chukwu

physics there. They shared the physics award with committee called him from

WAS takes stock seeks solution to region's growth crisis



Human Health and Climate Change

Suzanne Petroni
Public Health Institute
December 7, 2010



IPCC Report (2007)

Increases in:

- Infectious diseases
- Injuries and fatalities
- Respiratory and cardiovascular disease
- Allergic reactions
- Nutritional shortages
- Mental health issues



Lancet Commission (2009)

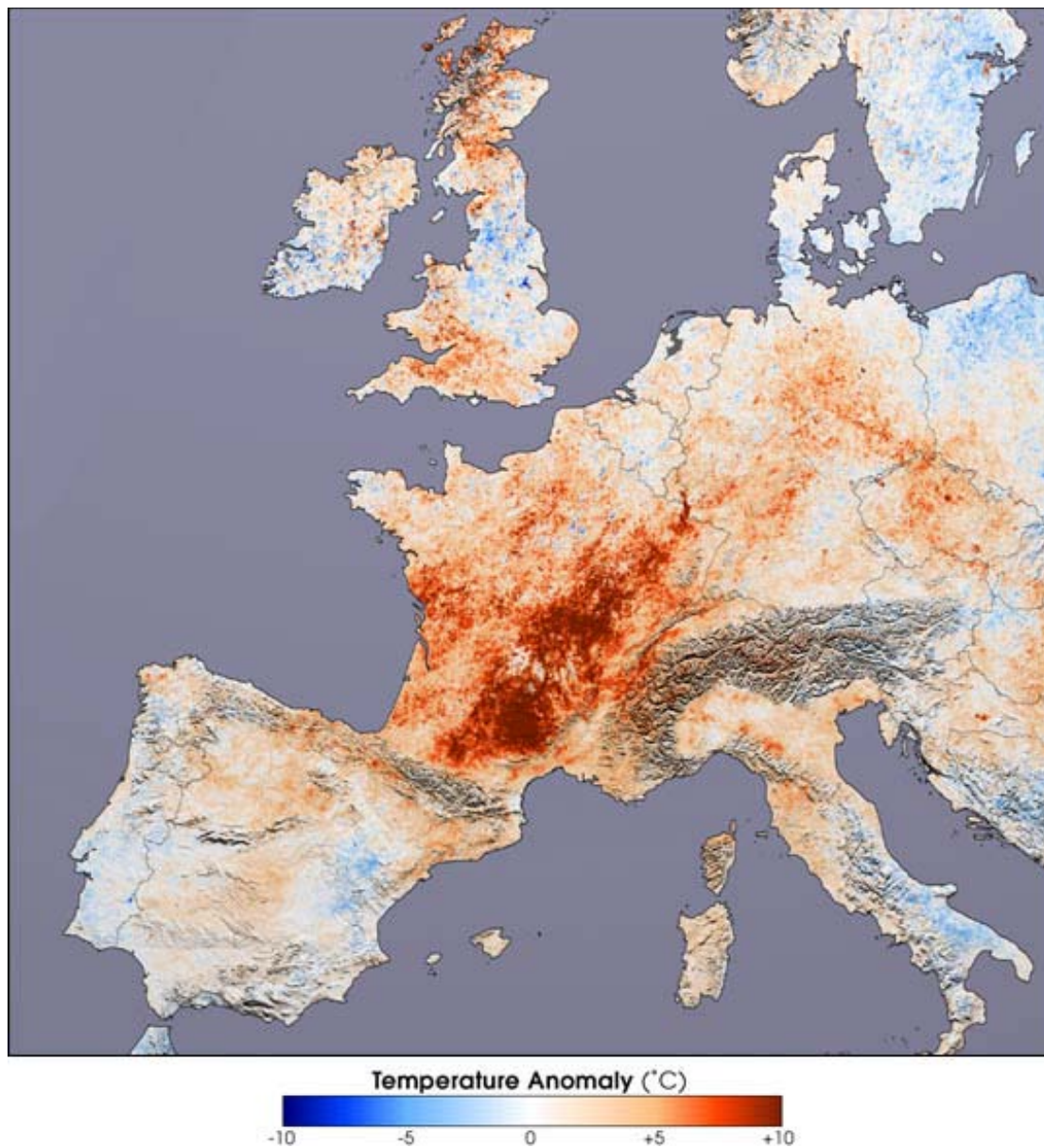
- Climate change “the biggest global health threat of the 21st century.”
- Threat to public health a “clear and present danger”



IFRC/John Haskew

By 2030, rising temperatures and changes in water accumulation due to climate change may increase the African population at risk of malaria by 90 million.
(WHO)

European heat wave (2003)





Some 20 million people were affected by the Pakistan floods, with over 2000 deaths recorded as a result.





Afghan refugees in Pakistan





WHO/Marko Kokic



Sean Sprague, SpraguePhoto.com



Health in Adaptation Plans

- 39 of 41 NAPAs (95%) consider health as impacted by climate change
- Only 23% of these plans comprehensive in health-vulnerability assessment
- Of 459 priority projects, only 50 (11%) represent projects focused on health
- Total estimated cost of priority projects is \$1.8 trillion, but just USD \$58 million (3%) directed to health



WHO review of NAPAs

“...the current consideration of public health interventions in NAPAs is unlikely to... protect public health from the negative effects of climate change.”

WHO 2010




Exposure to smoke from traditional cookstoves and open fires—the primary means of cooking and heating for nearly three billion people in the developing world—causes 1.9 million premature deaths annually, with women and young children the most affected. (Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves)



LHIL/Sudipto Das

A traffic policeman wears a mask to help protect himself from air pollution at a busy crossing in Kolkata, India. In 2002, more than 120,000 people died in India from diseases exacerbated by air pollution. (WHO)



“A new advocacy and public health movement is needed urgently to bring together governments, international agencies, nongovernmental organizations, communities, and academics from all disciplines to adapt to the effects of climate change on health.”