



INTEGRATING CLIMATE IN HEALTH POLICY

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CLIMATE CHANGE

- × Anthropogenic climate change- Evidence is clear and convincing.
- × Average surface temperatures could rise by 3–5 °C by 2100 without abatement action.
- × Maximum damage done in recent years.
- × Important global killers are highly sensitive to climatic conditions- diarrhoea, malaria, under nutrition, respiratory diseases.

- × Tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century due to the co-benefits from climate change mitigation strategies and promoting low carbon economy.

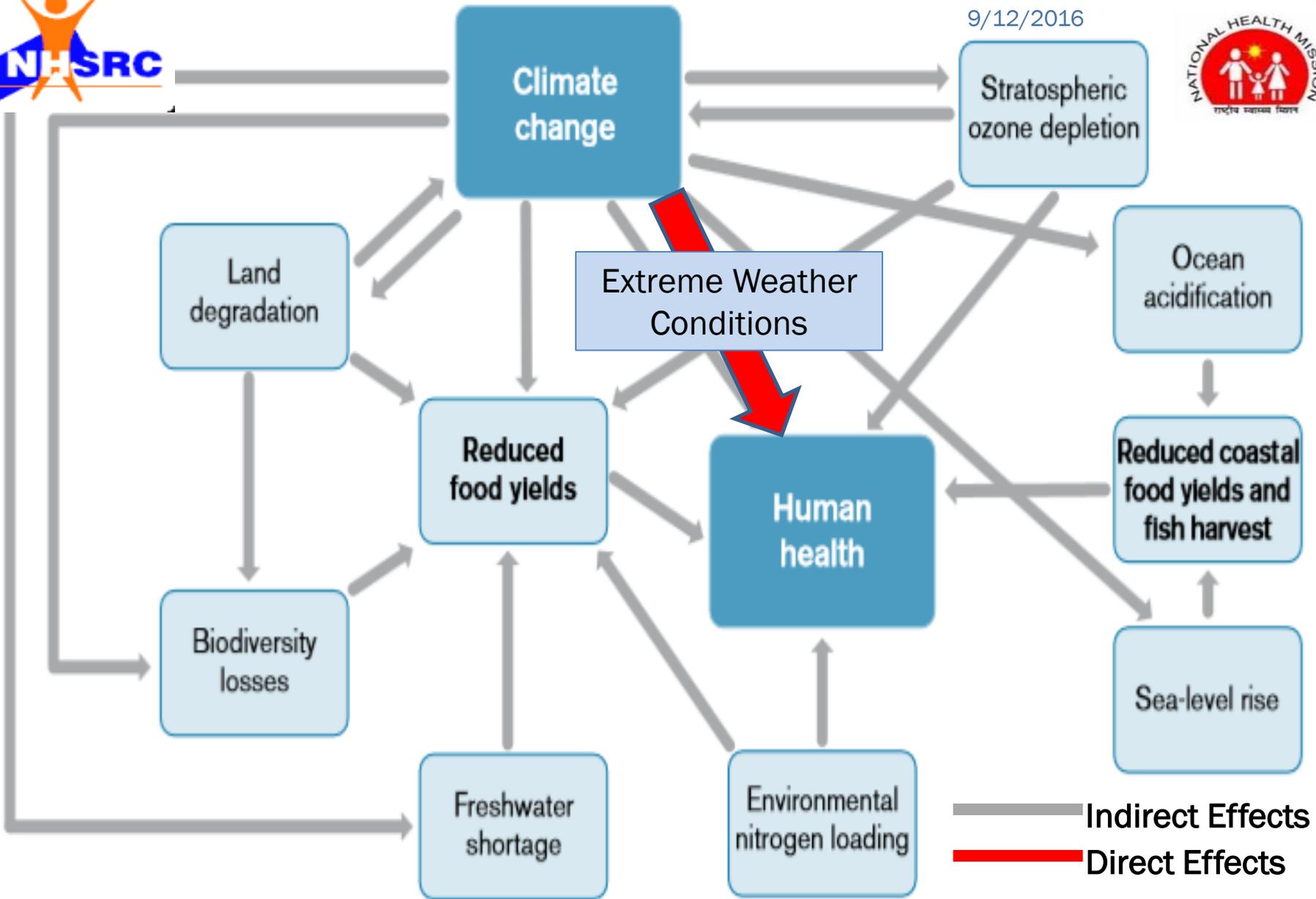


Figure 1: Examples of direct and indirect influences of climate change on human health (Source: Climate Change and Health: Policy Priorities and Perspectives, Anthony J McMichael) ⁴

CLIMATE INDUCED HEALTH HAZARDS: CHARACTERISTICS

- × Effects are Diverse, Global and Irreversible
- × Huge Impact
- × Risks are inequitable
- × Many of the projected impacts on health are avoidable
- × Exacerbation in existing health issues rather than the emergence of new and unfamiliar diseases
- × Adaptation to climate change is essentially a matter of basic public health protection

ISSUES RELEVANT TO POLICY FORMULATION

- × Regional Adaptive Capacity: Inhabitants of Indo-Gangetic regions are more adaptive.
- × Political Dimensions of Policy Formulation: Policy must protect people from political aberrations. Record export of food grains to Britain during famine year of 1877 in Madras.
- × Decentralized Decision Making: To harness local adaptability and flexibility.
- × International Instruments - which India is signatory to or has ratified.

ISSUES RELEVANT TO POLICY FORMULATION

- × Collateral Benefits and Loss. Example: Use of bio fuel crops for generating clean energy will reduce land available for food crop production.
- × No policy can be climate neutral. There is intersection of policy initiatives in energy, transport, climate and health.
- × Improving access to public and active transport greatly reduces CO₂ emissions and reduce
 - - 800 000 annual global deaths from outdoor air pollution
 - - 1.2 million annual deaths from traffic accidents
 - - 1.9 million deaths from physical inactivity.

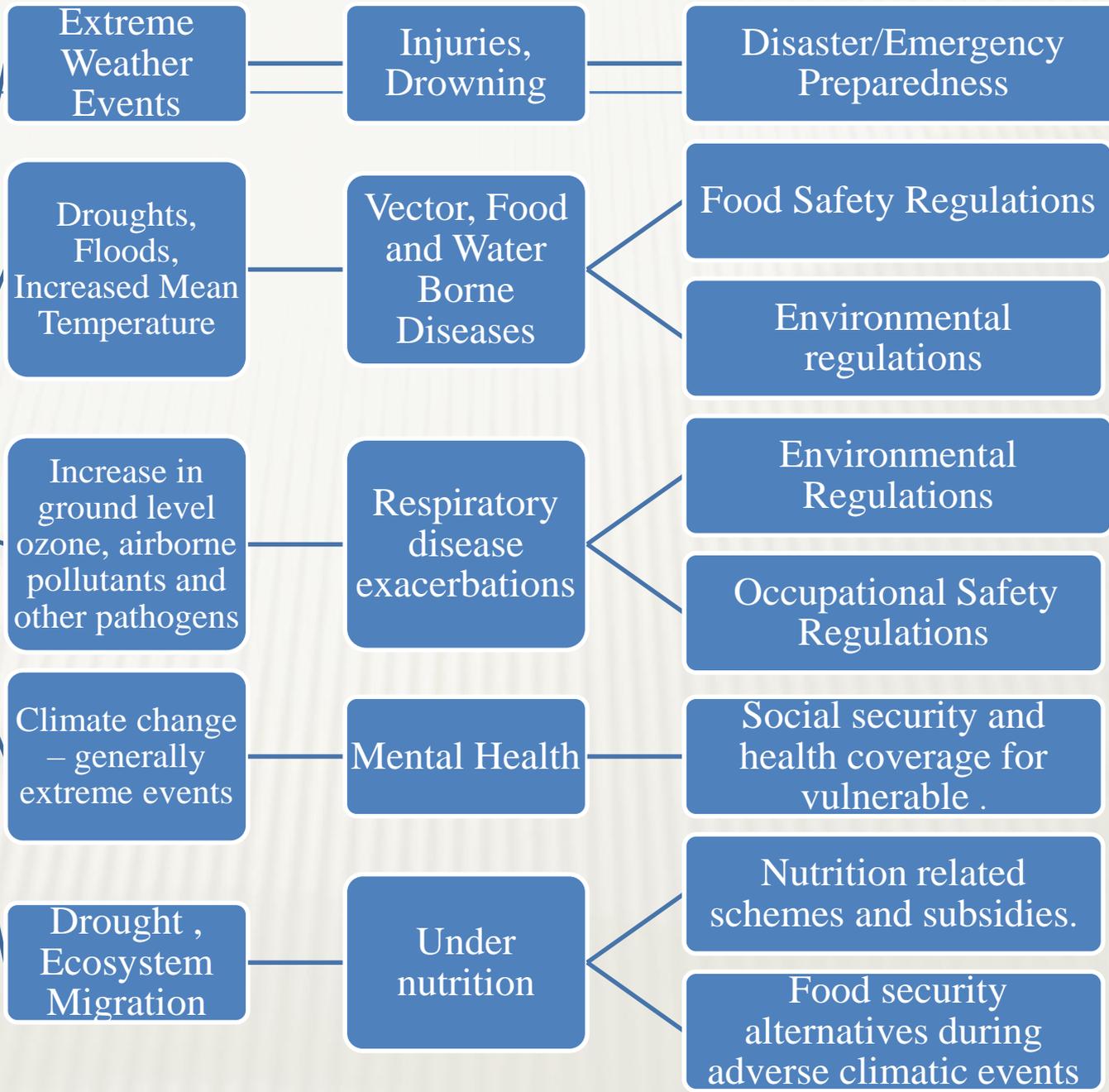


Weather Event

Health Effect

Areas of Policy Intervention

Effects of Climate on Health



CURRENT POLICY INITIATIVES - GLOBAL

- × **Global climate change adaptation fund**, funded by a 2% levy on a multibillion-dollar Clean Development Mechanism.
- × United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol.
- × Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides an internationally accepted authority on climate change.
- × Child Rights and Business Principles: Respecting children's rights in relationship to the environment.

CURRENT POLICY INITIATIVES- NATIONAL

- ✘ The National Environment Policy (2006) recognizes health of people as its central pillar.
- ✘ India's Integrated Energy Policy, formulated in 2006, lays down a roadmap for harnessing renewable energy sources with a target of adding 30 gigawatts (GW) by 2017 as per the 12th Five Year Plan.
- ✘ National Action Plan on Climate Change, 2008 identifies eight core “national missions” running through 2017- National Solar Mission, National water mission, National Mission for green India.

CURRENT POLICIES-- -

- × National Water Policy, 2012 : Impact of climate change on water resources availability and water management related decisions
- × The Ministry of the Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has initiated in 2014 the **Health in All Policy** and the concept of '**Health Cells**' in 14 key Ministries and Departments.

Draft National Health Policy, 2015

- Acknowledges the effects of extreme weather events and proposes mitigation strategies
 - building of earthquake and cyclone resistant health infrastructures
 - developing emergency response protocols
- Coordinated action on seven priority areas including reducing indoor and outdoor air pollution.
- Prioritizes transforming Health into a ‘Social Movement’.
- Prioritizes Primary health care in terms of budgetary allocations and moving towards a Comprehensive Primary healthcare model

DRAFT NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY-2015

- × Emphasis on School Health Programme - school curriculum to include environment friendly and health promoting behaviour.

CONCLUSION

- × Public health protection from the eminent perils of climatic change demand strategies which promote adaptation to these changes integrated within the national and global health policies.
- × Capacity and skill building at each level is essential to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- × The health sector must therefore widen its field of vision in order to play a substantive role in the policy discourse to forge effective links with other sectors of government.

THANK YOU